GMA hometown in darkness; drug lord suspect blamed

Story on PAGE A3

Garchitorena: I can always be a cabbie

PWEDE AKONG TAXI DRIVER

By Volt Contreras

IF all else fails, he can begin a new life as a cabbie.

Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, who has informed the Supreme

GARCHITORENA/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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The Inquirer in Busan

SPECIAL eight-page Sports section on the Asian Games, pages A25-A32.

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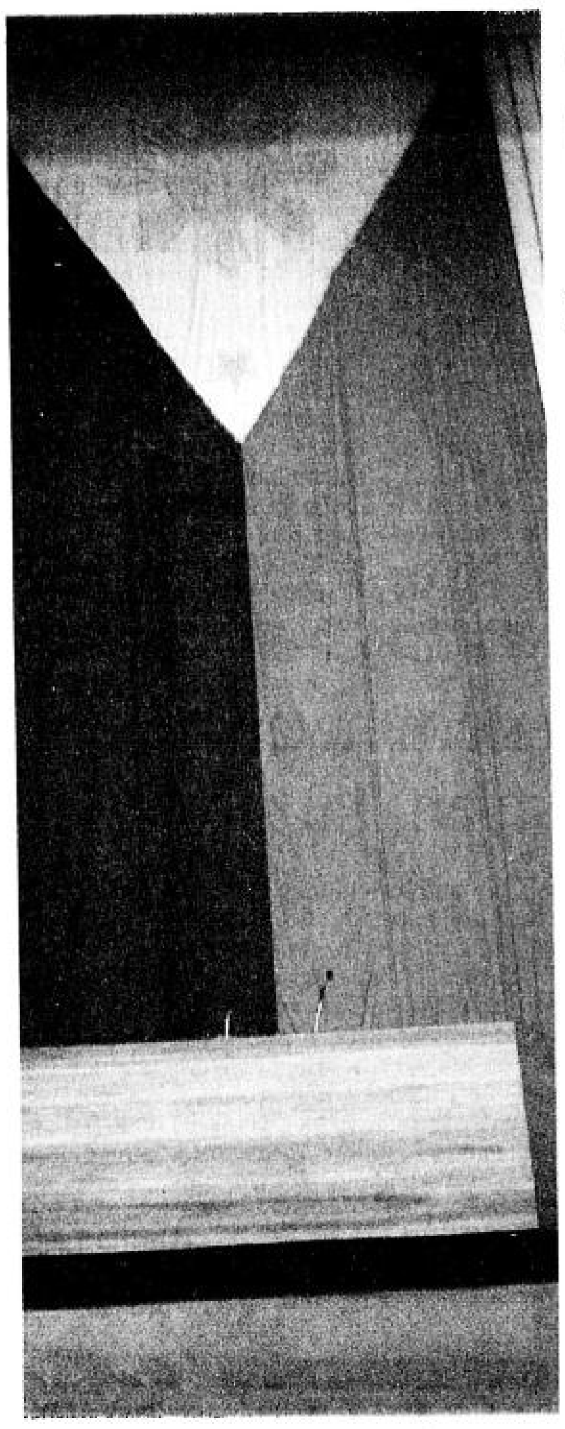

Solons vow to block arrest of Mark Jimenez

SUPREME COURT

SC, Congress head for showdown

By Juliet L. Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac

JUST try it.

Invoking the Bill of Rights, congressmen supportive of Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez yesterday said they would block the arrest of their embattled colleague whose P1-million bail for a US extradition case had been ordered canceled by the Supreme Court.

"If they try to arrest him, I don't think that will be respected (in the House)," said San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, former executive secretary and three-term congressman.

"Even if the decision becomes final, they cannot implement (the arrest) because it will violate the constitutional right of a person and destroy the integrity of Congress," said Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen.

Other congressmen had earlier warned of a showdown with the Supreme Court and Malacañang, which they said would bring about a constitutional crisis.

"There will be a constitutional crisis of a magnitude that we have never seen before," Dilangalen warned yesterday.

"He cannot be arrested until there is final conviction," said Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras, chair of the House transportation committee.

Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico (Iloilo) said any attempt to arrest Jimenez would be futile because the House would not allow a district to be deprived of its representation.

"I feel personally that we should resist giving him up to American authorities unless he is convicted by final judgment. He should be free to serve his constituents," said Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles, chair of the House committee on housing.

Amid the controversy arising from his case,

DOJ/ A23

PEA execs' perks behind overprice of boulevard

By Juliet L. Javellana

PERKS including luxury vehicles and per diems enjoyed by officials of the scandal-rocked Public Estates Authority contributed to the reported P600-million overprice in the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, according to disgruntled PEA employees.

They said that on top of the "project vehicles," each PEA director was entitled to a P1-million car loan. The directors also increased their per diem from P3,000 to P10,000 per meeting, and the frequency of the meetings from once to four times a month.

PEA sources revealed that five "project vehicles" were provided by the contractors of the 5.1-kilometer, eight-lane asphalt road parallel to Roxas Boulevard.

The sources said the Jesusito D. Legaspi Construction (JDLC) issued three vehicles—a Strada, an L200 and a Mitsubishi Adventure—that were used

PEA/ A19

Gov't to blame for Burnham death–Janjalani

By Martin P. Marfil

A MAN who identified himself as Khadaffy Janjalani, the reclusive leader of the Abu Sayyaf, yesterday said his group was strong and united despite the Macapagal administration's declaration that it had crushed the bandits.

Janjalani, in an interview aired over Radio Mindanao Network, also blamed the Philippine government for the death of two Abu Sayyaf hostages—American missionary Martin Burnham and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap. The two died during a military rescue attempt on June 7.

"The Al-harakatul Islamiya as a group is as strong and united as ever by the grace of Allah, bolstered by the blood of our martyrs, notwithstanding the trials

GOV'T / A22

CENTRAL to the parade grounds of the Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming, is the ancient bell of Balangiga which the Americans took as a war booty from Eastern Samar. The other bell is reportedly in a US military base in South Korea.

Balangiga yearns for Freedom Bells

By Vicente S. Labro,
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Tina Arceo-Dumlao

BALANGIGA, Eastern Samar—Hope still runs high among residents of this town that the church bells taken from the belfry here by American soldiers 101 years ago will be returned on time.

But the absence of the "Bells of Freedom" will not dampen the spirit of the Balangiganons who will commemorate today the 101st Balangiga Encounter Day.

In the early morning hours of Sept. 28, 1901, the bells rang to signal the attack on the American garrison in this town by local revolutionaries disguised as pious women going to Mass. Their daring strategy and their heroism are the stuff of legends. The garrison was overrun and the 74-man detachment was nearly wiped out.

In retaliation, Gen. Jake Smith ordered the burning of Samar. Some 50,000 Samareños reportedly died in that campaign and the bells were taken by the Americans as war booty.

The bells are now installed on a red brick wall of the flagstaff at the center of the parade grounds of the Francis W. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Another is reportedly in an American military base in South Korea.

Local organizations led by the Balangiga Historical and Cultural Foundation Inc. (BHCFI) are set to appeal before the United Nations to reclaim the bells.

Foundation officer Voltaire D. Canillas said groups including the Diocese of Borongan, local government units and Filipino

BALANGIGANS/ A23

No stopping Roco; FPJ 'sure winner' if he runs

By Donna S. Cueto

THERE'S no stopping Raul Roco, but Fernando Poe Jr. needs a push.

That's how the political arena looks for President Macapagal-Arroyo and her handlers 20 months before the 2004 presidential elections.

Roco, who has no political machinery, and Poe, who is hesitant to board the opposition vehicle, are so far the only possible presidential challengers in the horizon.

Roco, who resigned as education secretary last month, said it straight on Thursday night—he is definitely running for the presidency in 2004. He was the guest speaker at the 41st anniversary of the Philippine Constitutional Association (Philconsa) at a hotel in Makati, where he virtually campaigned for votes as he talked of the need to break the "vicious cycle" of power and money dictating who would get the presidency.

Philconsa is headed by former senator and key opposition figure Juan Ponce Enrile who said that the opposition still had no definite idea on who it would support in 2004. The talk, though, is that Poe, a close friend of deposed President Joseph Estrada and the reputed king of Philippine movies, will be the opposition candidate and eventually the next president, if he wants it.

Another opposition leader, Sen. Vicente Sotto III, said Poe is a "sure winner" should he decide to challenge Ms Macapagal for the presidency. In a telephone interview, the Senate minority leader said other opposition candidates would give way to the movie star if he decides to join the presidential derby.

NO STOPPING/ A22

Pag-asa: Island paradise is Dangerous Ground

By Jerry Esplanada

SPECIAL REPORT

SPRATLYS ISLAND, South China Sea—It is "one big lie" and it needs to be corrected.

Officials of Kalayaan were referring the to 2000 census which puts the total population of the country's remotest municipality at 234.

"On paper, that is. But the truth is, most of the time, my constituents are based in Puerto Princesa City and other parts of Palawan, not here. Military personnel outnumber them," said Mayor Rosendo Mantes, former commanding officer of the Naval Station on Pag-asa Island, the town's one and only barangay.

According to Mantes, "life is good in (Palawan) mainland but we're not supposed to operate the municipality from there. It's wrong."

The "irregularities prompted the municipal government to launch what it calls the Kalayaan Settlement Program with the vision of converting the strategically located island into an "ideal fishing community of between 400 and 500 people which we believe is the holding capacity of this island paradise."

"A part of our vision is converting Kalayaan into a Filipino Greenland, a place where there are no poor people, " according to Mantes.

Early this week, Mantes got started on the vision by bringing the first batch of 85 civilian settlers and their load of

PAG-ASA/ A23

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/28/02

122 Chinese poachers plead guilty

PUERTO PRINCESA—The 122 Chinese firshermen at the center of a diplomatic row between the Philippines and China pleaded guilty in court yesterday to poaching.

SOME of the 160 detained Chinese fishermen stand inside a courtroom during their arraignment Friday in Puerto Princesa City.

REUTERS

The Chinese were imposed a fine of P2,000 each for the offense at a packed regional court in this capital city of Palawan.

The group as a whole also had to pay a penalty of $50,000 for illegal fishing as part of a plea bargain, court officials said.

Illegal fishing fines are based on the number of boats used. The fishermen came in eight boats and could have been charged as high as $100,000 per boat but the fine was scaled down as part of a plea bargain.

Under the plea bargain proposed by their lawyer, charges against taking of endangered species (Sec. 97 of the Fisheries Code, or RA 8550) was scaled down to violations of Sec. 91 (the ban on the taking of corals) which carried a lesser penalty.

Despite the objection of two private prosecutors, state prosecutor Pablo Pamaran immediately agreed to the plea bargain.

Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra said "mooncake diplomacy" had succeeded, referring to Chinese Embassy and Department of Foreign Affairs attempts to patch up a quarrel last week between Chinese ambassador Wang Chungqui and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez over alleged Chinese bullying for the release of the 122 fishermen. Perez and Wang have since taken conciliatory actions.

Others in Puerto Princesa were disappointed by yesterday's court proceedings, however.

"What transpired in the courtroom was the no-balls diplomacy of the Philippine government," said lawyer Joselito Alisuag, the former executive director of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff.

Offie Bernardino, the director of the Palawan NGOs Network Inc., a coalition of 23 peoples organizations, said the group would file a complaint against state prosecutor Pamaran for "dereliction of duty for not upholding the interest of the state."

Clerk of court Maria Teresa Navarro said the court had scheduled proceedings yesterday for a total of 160 Chinese fishermen—composed of the 122 arrested more than six months ago and 38 detained on Sept. 12—because it was the only day when the court-designated Chinese interpreter was available.

The arraignment of the 38 had to be reset for Oct. 2, however, because of the lack of a defense lawyer. Lawyer Zoilo Cuizat said he only represented the first group of 122 fishermen.

Despite the diplomatic squabble over the illegal fishermen, Navarro said the Chinese Embassy had not provided an interpreter and that the court even had to appoint a lawyer to represent the detained fishermen.

Local ethnic Chinese businesspeople had acted as translators in the court proceedings.

The fishermen could be released by week's end and be out of the country soon after, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Lauro Baja said in Manila.

"They would of course go through the process. They would be documented by the Chinese Embassy and could soon be out of the country before the weekend is over," said Baja.

Sources at the Chinese Embassy in Manila said the embassy was preparing for the release of the fishermen who were being detained in Palawan since their arrest. Their time in detention could be considered as time served.

In Puerto Princesa, however, there was some question over whether the fishermen could be released just yet.

Provincial jail warden Ramon Espina said he could not release the Chinese because they still had cases before the immigration bureau.

The legal counsel of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources submitted a motion that 17 of the fishermen must not be released, pending the resolution of an administrative case against them under Sec 87 of RA 8550, indicating that "the Department of Agriculture . . . is empowered to impose an additional administrative fine of not less than $50,000 but not more $200,000" aside from the fine of $100,000 that was to have been imposed by the court. *Dominique Tabora and Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, Norman Bordadora, Metro Manila, and AFP*

Chino Roces Freedom Awards go to Doronila, Intengan, Luz, FLAG

AN INQUIRER columnist and author, a legal group, a freedom-fighting priest, and a civil society leader from business have been chosen for this year's Chino Roces Freedom Award.

They are Amando Doronila, chosen for the "high professional integrity and keen sense of perspective he brings to the discussion of public issues; the Free Legal Assistance Group (Flag) "for championing the legal cause of the poor and the oppressed." Fr. Romeo Intengan, "for a life dedicated to the fight for freedom, human rights and social justice," and Guillermo Luz, "for enlisting the business community in the cause of socio-political reform."

They are the unanimous choices of the board of trustees of the Joaquin P. Roces Foundation. They will receive the award at a ceremony on Sept. 30 at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City. The ceremony is timed with the 16th death anniversary of Joaquin P. Roces, the newspaper publisher and freedom fighter for whom the award is named. It begins with a Mass at 9:15 a.m. and ends with an early lunch.

The guest of honor is President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The foundation was established by family and friends on Dec. 10, 1988, about two months after his death, to promote freedom and active citizenship, two causes for which he fought with singular courage and commitment.

In 1989, it launched the annual Ang Pilipino Award to celebrate outstanding achievements in public service, community work and journalism.

In response to the call of the times, it has refocused its efforts and, in place of that award, launched the Freedom Award and the Special Freedom Citation given in 2000 to former President Corazon Aquino and Sister Christine Tan, respectively.

And in 2001, the regular Freedom Award was launched, honoring Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., the National Movement for Free Elections, and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism.

The foundation's trustees are Jorge Sarmiento (Chair) Fernando Peña, Luz Lopez, Jose Ricafort, Salvador Rivera, Chit Roces, Regina Paterno, Simon Paterno, Firmo Tripon, and Jose Velez.

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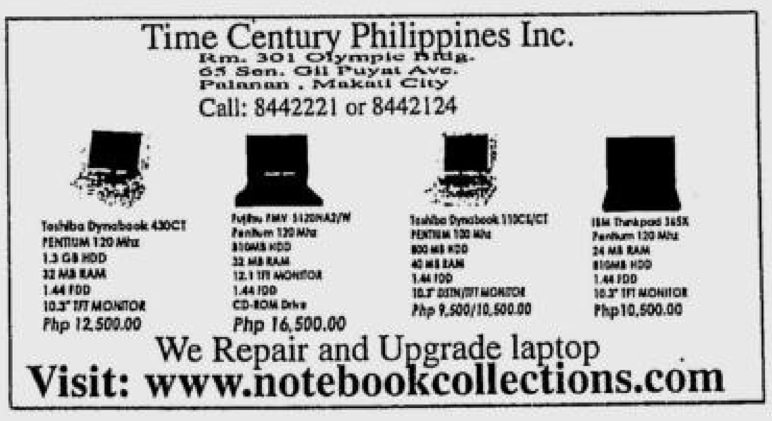

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GMA hometown in darkness; drug lord suspect blamed

LUBAO, Pampanga—Suspected drug lord Alfredo Tiongco on Friday switched off the electric transformer of his cement and hollow blocks factory here, plunging 29 out of 44 villages in President Macapagal-Arroyo's hometown into darkness, Mayor Dennis Pineda said yesterday.

The outage, which affected some 60,000 residents and five other barangays in nearby Sasmuan town, happened on the eve of the 92nd birthday anniversary of the late President Diosdado Macapagal.

Pineda said his negotiations with Tiongco and his son Carter to restore the power in the areas bogged down at 8:15 p.m. on Friday.

"They never wanted to talk to me or any village officials," the mayor said. He said the talks began a few hours after Tiongco turned off his transformer at past 1 p.m. Friday.

The businessman made the move after officials of the Pampanga Electric Cooperative (PELCO) II served him a notice of disconnection. PELCO II general manager Vicente Rodriguez said Tiongco had arrears worth more than P4 million. According to Pineda, PELCO II, in its failure to build electric substations, utilized the businessman's transformer to energize many of Lubao's villages.

The contract expired two years ago yet the cooperative continued to depend on Tiongco's transformer despite a grant from the National Electrification Administration to construct a substation. Ms Macapagal gave the grant in April last year, he said. Pineda accused PELCO II officials of "extreme negligence" and Tiongco of "lack of concern for my townmates." Pineda said Tiongco should "not get back at the residents and make them suffer" because they had been dutifully paying their bills to PELCO II. The cooperative itself had been in the red, owing some P130 million to the National Power Corporation and the NEA, it was learned.

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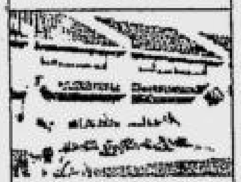

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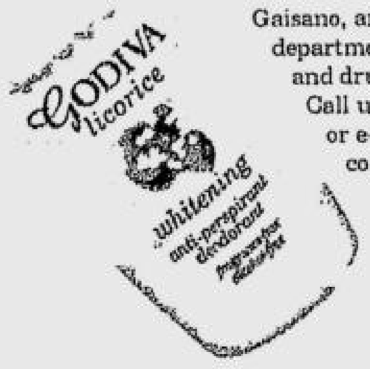

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DENR's E-Poster Making Contest:
"Protect Life, Save the Ozone Layer"

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) and the Philippine Ozone Desk (POD) announces the winners of the first ever E-Poster Making Contest.

The digital image art competition for all college students, aged 18-21 years old who are computer enthusiasts and artists is part of the month-long observance of the International Month for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer this September.

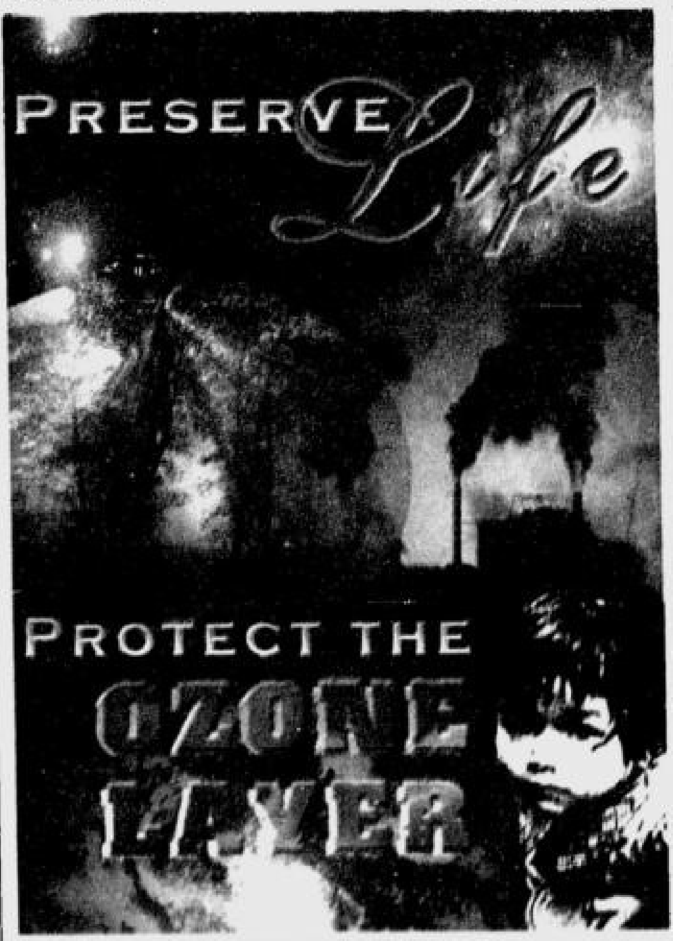
Environment Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez personally handed the cash prizes to the winners chosen from among 58 entries in rites held on September 23, 2002 at the SM City North EDSA where the entries were shown to the public in an exhibit.

The contest sought to enhance the information, education and communication (IEC) campaign of the DENR-EMB-POD on the importance of protecting the ozone layer.

The entries will be used as designs and backdrops for hand-outs, brochures and other printed materials as part of POD's IEC and will be featured in the POD WebSite to be launched in mid-October.

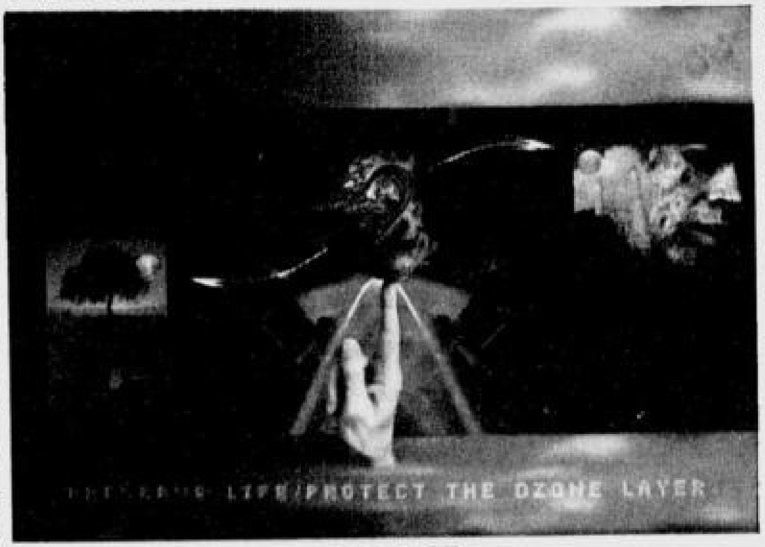
THE WINNERS

1st Prize - P30,000.00



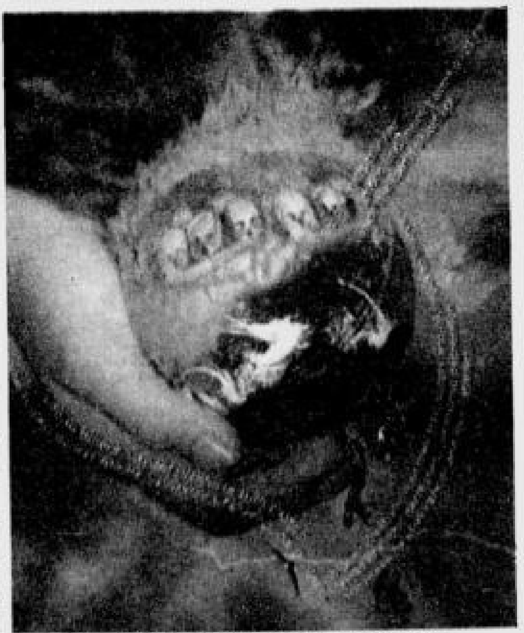
Entry Title: ***"LIFE AND OZONE"***
ALLAN LOUISE CACHO
University of Sto. Tomas

2nd Prize - P20,000.00



Entry Title: ***"TWO CHOICES"***
JOHN PAUL GOMEZ
AMA Computer, Makati

3rd Prize - P10,000.00



Entry Title: ***"TERRA IN IGNE"***
VICTOR EMMANUEL QUINTOS
University of Sto Tomas

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REY DAN ORMITA	Far Eastern University
AMADOR PLOPENIO	Technological University of the Phil.
EULOGIO GIBAS	Laguna State Polytechnic Colleges – Los Baños Campus

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Environmental Management Bureau
PHILIPPINE OZONE DESK

7, not 3, Malay guards raped RP girl

By Michael Lim Ubac

SEVEN, not just three, Malaysian guards had allegedly taken turns in raping the 13-year-old Filipina expelled from Malaysia early this month, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

In a press conference, Perez revealed that "Angelica" identified the seven suspects through photographs shown to her during an interview conducted by three Malaysian investigators at the Malaysian embassy in Manila yesterday.

The girl even recalled identifying marks on the bodies of the guards who, she claimed, sexually assaulted her while she was being held at the Menggatal Detention Centre in Sabah, Perez said.

This led the Justice secretary to believe that Angelica's allegations were true. "But it turned out," he said, "that (there were more than) three guards involved." He did not disclose the identities of the seven guards.

Perez also commended the Malaysian embassy officials "for their cooperation and attitude. They really want the guilty party to be punished," he said.

The rape incidents were said to have occurred before Angelica was shipped back to Tawi-Tawi, along with hundreds of other Filipinos, from the predominantly Muslim country.

Chief state prosecutor Jovencito Zuno and social welfare officials yesterday accompanied Angelica and an unnamed witness to the embassy, where the interviews were being conducted since Thursday.

The Malaysian Royal Police investigating team led by assistant police commissioner Takbir Ahmad bin ("son of") Nazir Mohamed arrived on Sept. 25 in Manila. The two other members are deputy superintendent Yahaya bin Ramli and chief inspector Nurul Huda bte ("daughter of") Mohamed Salleh.

Perez said many things were clarified after an interpreter was called in to help Angelica, who spoke only a Malaysian dialect.

"She was really raped," Perez said more than once. He added that the witness told the Malaysian probers that she saw Angelica "being taken out of the detention cell and brought to a building where the guards were waiting."

Philippine and Malaysian officials were now ascertaining the exact age of Angelica through dental examinations, the Justice chief said, "because her record of birth is in Malaysia."

However, he said, the girl's real citizenship also needed to be determined. "We have received information that her mother is Filipino, but we suspect that the father (identified only as Sing Song) is Chinese-Malaysian. So we think—subject to verification—that she holds a dual citizenship."

Perez said it would then be asked why, at the time of the crime, the girl was being expelled—and so why was she at the detention center, in the first place?

Possibly because in most countries, he said, holders of dual citizenships were required to elect the citizenship of their choice upon attaining the age of maturity.

Angelica's case qualified as statutory rape, Perez said, which applied up to the age of 16 under Malaysian laws.

Malaysian Ambassador Mohamed Taufik earlier said that in his country, the death penalty could not be imposed on a person in authority who has raped a minor.

Under Philippine laws, statutory rape applies to cases where the victims are 12 years old and below. The punishment is life imprisonment, but the death sentence is an option with aggravating circumstances, such as when the victim is raped while in the custody of police or military authorities.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 3944 Series of 2002

Pagcor posts P13.1-B income

PHILIPPINE Amusement & Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR) posted a new income record of P1.78 billion for August, bringing to P13.1 billion its total revenues for the first eight months of 2002.

Chairman Efraim C. Genuino said PAGCOR's performance for 2002 will enable the state-run gaming firm to support the pro-poor projects of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, specially eight newly-enacted laws requiring close to P3 billion funding for the next five years.

PAGCOR's P1.78 billion income for August is its second highest for the year after the P1.81 billion record it posted last May. Its P13.1 billion income for the first eight months is a hefty 14 percent increase from the P11.5 billion generated over the same period last year. PAGCOR's revenues have risen by an average of half a billion a month since Genuino took over as PAGCOR's chairman.

As required by law, PAGCOR remitted its income to the following beneficiaries for the eight-month period: P5.57 billion to the National Treasury as the government's mandated income sale, P739.5 million to the President's Social Fund, P279 million to the Philippine Sports Commission, P7.39 million to the Board of Claims, P50 million for the construction of the Manila Hall of Justice, P1.24 million as assistance to socio-civic projects and P278.3 million for the development of casino host-cities.

PAGCOR provided funding to the following laws during the same period: P133.3 million to the Early Childhood Care and Development Act; P40 million to the Gasoline Station Training and Loan Fund which will enable small entrepreneurs to start their own gas retailing business; P80 million to reward bemedalled national athetes under the Sports Benefits & Incentives Act; and P1 million to support the National Endowment Funds for Children's Television.

Gov't cautioned vs 'ukay-ukay' sale

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. Ralph Recto yesterday cautioned the government against giving "ukay-ukay" (used clothes) price tags for public properties to be put on the auction block to shore up public finances.

Recto, chair of the Senate committee on ways and means, urged the Macapagal administration to be prudent and wait for the right market conditions when assets to be disposed, especially shares in blue-chip companies, could fetch a fair price.

"Government's desire to raise money quick should not trigger panic selling on its part in which assets are sold for a song. Timing is very important," he said.

The "crown-jewels" in the government's asset inventory, such as its holdings in the Manila Electric Company and the transmission lines of the National Power Corporation, should not be subjected to a "fire sale," he said.

"Why should they be (cheaply sold) when they are not damaged goods? We should not privatize just for privatization's sake."

Saudis say news reports on Muslims 'very unfair'

By Isagani Yambot
Publisher

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia—The coverage of the news about Saudi Arabia and Muslims by Western publications has been "very unfair," especially after 9/11, according to a ranking official of the Ministry of Information.

"Since Sept. 11 last year, Islam has been whipped badly by Western groups," Dr. Zamel A. Abuzinada, director general for external information in the Western region, said in a recent interview with a Philippine media delegation.

"A lot of distortion is taking place," he said.

As soon as a plane is hijacked or a bombing is carried out, the first suspect is a Muslim, he said. For instance, in the Oklahoma bombing, at first it was reported that the bomber was a Muslim, but it turned out he was not.

Abuzinada said the Western press wants to portray Saudi Arabia as a violent country of terrorists.

"Have you seen terror in the city? Have you seen violence here?" he asked.

Except in car accidents and in surgical operations, blood is not being shed in Saudi Arabia, he said.

He said that "a small percentage" of bad Saudis is giving the kingdom a bad name. But Saudi Arabia is just like any other country and has its share of good and bad people, he added.

Asked about the apparent openness of Saudi Arabia now to foreign journalists, Abuzinada said "But we were never closed. Saudi Arabia cannot lock its borders and say, 'We won't admit visitors.'"

JPE raps 'baseless'—First Gas

THE FIRST Gas Power Corp., the independent power producer belonging to the Lopez Group, has dismissed as "misleading, baseless and malicious" the charges of former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile concerning its power supply contracts with the Manila Electric Company, the Lopez-owned power distributor.

It said its transactions with Meralco had undergone extensive public hearings and have been certified as aboveboard by the Energy Regulatory Board.

Enrile accused Meralco of overcharging electricity consumers because of its alleged "sweetheart" deal for the purchase of electricity from its own IPP, First Gas. Meralco and other distributors are allowed to pass on this cost to consumers through the purchased power adjustment charges.

"These allegations (by Enrile) are malicious, misleading and baseless, meant to taint the integrity of the Lopezes. We have not overcharged Meralco consumers. These contracts are aboveboard and went through ERB's due process and scrutiny, including public hearings," First Gas said in a statement.

First Gas asked how the company along with Meralco could be overcharging electricity users when their power supply contracts conform to stringent ERB regulations and had undergone close scrutiny not only by the government regulatory body but also by the public or consumers themselves.

Far from overbilling electricity users, Meralco's power utilities—First Gas and Quezon Power—had even gone through the effort of offering the biggest cuts in PPA charges, it said.

First Gas also belied allegations of escalating capacity fee rates which Enrile said would allow for automatic increases that go beyond the ERB-approved rate.

It said that its ERB-approved contract with Meralco allowed an increase in capacity fees only up to the date of commercial operations, which means that there have not been any adjustment since that time.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Searching inquiry to be conducted by the trial court in cases of plea of guilt involving a capital offense—The searching inquiry to be conducted by the trial court should consist of the following; (1) Ascertain from the accused himself (a) how he was brought into the custody of the law; (b) whether he had the assistance of a competent counsel during the custodial and preliminary investigations; and (c) under what conditions he was detained and interrogated during the investigations. These the court shall do in order to rule out the possibility that the accused has been coerced or placed under a state of duress either by actual threats of physical harm coming from malevolent or avenging quarters. (2) Ask the defense counsel a series of questions as to whether he has conferred with, and completely explained to, the accused the meaning and consequences of a plea of guilty. (3) Elicit information about the personality profile of the accused, such as his age, socio-economic status, and educational background, which may serve as a trustworthy index of his capacity to give a free and informed plea of guilty. (4) Inform the accused [of] the exact length of imprisonment or nature of the penalty under the law and the certainty that he will serve such sentence. Not infrequently indeed an accused pleads guilty in hope of a lenient treatment or upon bad advice or because of promises of the authorities or parties of a lighter penalty should he admit guilt or express remorse. It is the duty of the judge to see to it that the accused does not labor under these mistaken impressions. (5) Require the accused to fully narrate the incident that spawned the charged against him or make him reenact the manner in which he perpetrated the crime, or cause him to supply missing details of significance. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, People v. Galvez, G.R. No. 135053, March 6, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 28, 2002
25th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ecl 11:9-12:8
Gospel: Lk 9:43-45

While all were amazed at everything Jesus did, he said to his disciples, "Listen and remember what I tell you now: The Son of Man will be delivered into human hands." But the disciples didn't understand this saying; something prevented them from grasping what he meant, and they were afraid to ask him about it.

Commentary

Notwithstanding the apostles' lack of understanding of who he really was, Jesus went on healing people as a sign of the coming of God's reign. Everyone marveled at what he was doing. But he knew that behind all this wonder loomed the resistance of those who did not accept him and his message of liberation. Thus, the somber words on his coming Passion. The sad thing is that the disciples did not understand Jesus' discourse; worse, they did not care to have it unraveled by the Master, so they didn't ask him what it was all about. Frequently, when we fear the consequences of what we ought to know, we don't want to have things explained to us so we can play safe in our discipleship. But such is not the true discipleship of Jesus.

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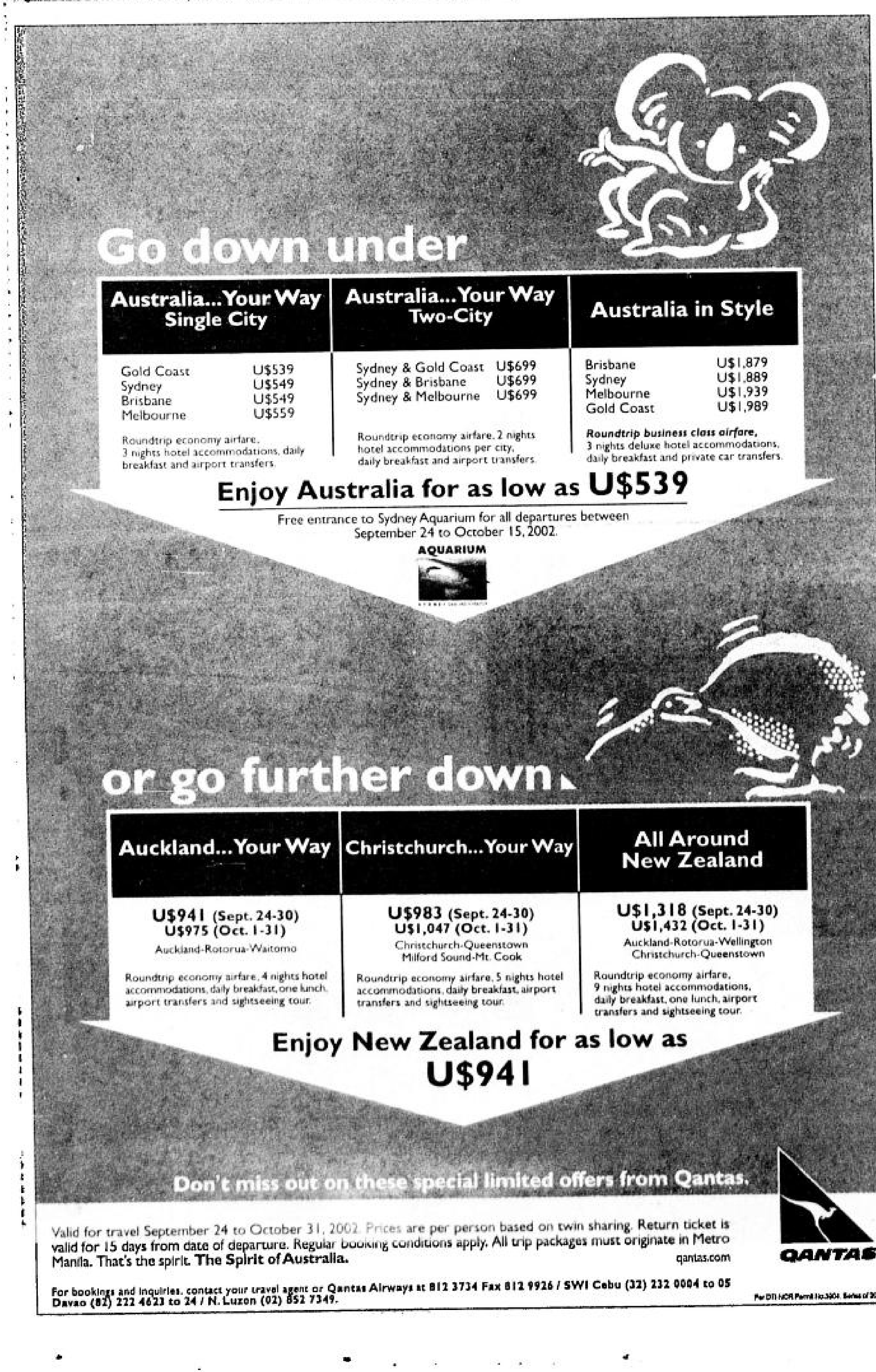

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3904, Series of 2002

Farmers press 100% increase in price of palay

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

A FARMERS' group yesterday pressed the National Food Authority to increase the farmgate price of palay by 100 percent, from the current P7.50 per kilo to P15, citing rice planters' "dwindling income" due to rising production costs.

The Alyansang Magbubukid ng Gitnang Luzon (AMGL) also called on the NFA to purchase 90 percent of locally produced palay, so that it wouldn't fall into the usual "predatory pricing" by private traders. The NFA currently buys only 10 percent at P8 per kilo, leaving the rest to merchants and private buyers, who purchase the grain at 50 centavos less.

"Rice farmers have not been reaping the (equitable) fruit of their labor because rice traders and the rice cartel dictate the prices," said AMGL chair Rod Flores in a news conference.

"Raising the farmgate price to P15 per kilo is the most just and reasonable demand by people behind the plow (like us), to cope with the economic sufferings we are experiencing," Flores said.

He was certain that the government had the funds to purchase 90 percent of local production, noting that the NFA was bound to spend P1.18 billion a year in salaries and rentals for its Tindahan ni Gloria mobile stores, which sell imported rice.

"Those funds should be used to genuinely support local palay production instead of financing the marketing of imported rice," Flores said.

Prices of fuel, basic commodities and farm supplies had been raised several times in the past several months, the peasant leader said, but the farmgate price of palay had been stuck for years at P7.50 per kilo or P375 per 50-kg sack.

P150M ready for Fokker repair

MALACAÑANG has set aside P150 million to pay for the repair of a presidential twin-engine Fokker jet.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said they have not paid Fokker Services Asia Ltd. anything pending the negotiation.

The government has refused to pay the jet company the $3 million, or P150 million, it had reportedly spent on repairing the jet's two engines.

It said the company did the repairs without first consulting the government.

It has asked the Paranaque Regional Trial Court to appoint an independent expert to appraise the extent and cost of the repairs.

Meanwhile Fokker has foreclosed the aircraft, which has been in Singapore since last year.

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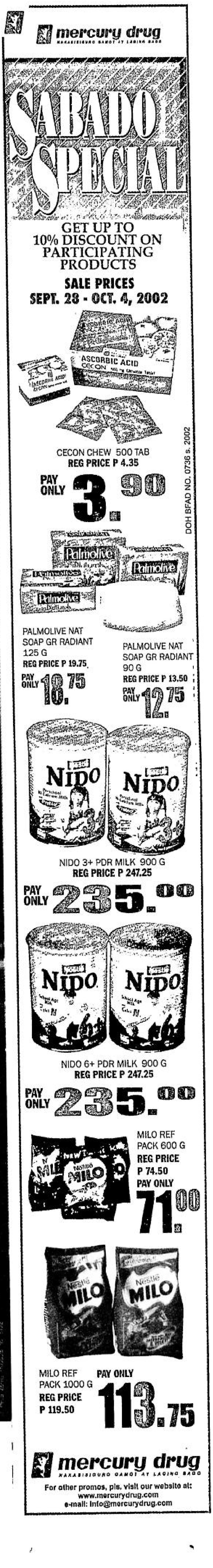
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Military rains mortar fire on MILF lines; 1 reb dead

COTABATO CITY—A rebel from the largest Muslim separatist group in the Philippines was killed in a firefight with the government soldiers despite a ceasefire between the two sides, the military and insurgent leaders said yesterday.

Two other rebels from the Muslim separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and two soldiers were wounded in Thursday's clash, which the military said was triggered by complaints that the group was extorting money and harassing villagers.

MILF spokesman Eid Kabalu said the military used two MG520 helicopters and about 100 mortars to fire at the group's positions during the fight some 40 kilometers south of this city.

Kabalu said the MILF would raise the issue of the military attacks to an independent peace panel monitoring the ceasefire.

"This is a violation of the ceasefire agreement," Kabalu said.

The 12,500-strong MILF last year signed a ceasefire with President Macapagal-Arroyo's government amid peace talks aimed at ending its 24-year struggle to create an independent Islamic state in the southern Philippines.

Brig. Gen. Generoso Senga, chief of the Army's 6th infantry division operating in the conflict area, said they launched air and ground assaults on the MILF positions following pleas from villagers. *AFP*

New security force for MSU

By TJ Burgonio

THE PHILIPPINE National Police will be helping the Marawi City-based Mindanao State University in putting together a new security force in the wake of the abduction of four of the university's female teachers.

President Macapagal-Arroyo gave the PNP this directive following reports that the kidnappers were allegedly disgruntled former security officers of the university, said PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.

The teachers, who were seized on Sept. 13, were released in Lanao del Sur on Wednesday night. Local officials reportedly negotiated for the release of Edith Bontilao, Luzminda Castillon, Salvacion Mikin and Emma Karaan.

Authorities have said the kidnappers were disgruntled MSU security guards who had been dismissed without being paid their wages.

"They were former employees of the MSU. They don't belong to the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang or any other organized group," Ebdane said, adding that the police was still hunting down the kidnappers.

Ebdane said the PNP would help the MSU "in the recruitment, training and initial management" of the university police force.

He said "some parameters will have to be met before any member of the police force will be accepted."

The MSU may have made some mistakes in the recruitment of some security officers, which may have been a factor in the abduction of the teachers, he said.

Ebdane said the MSU's recruitment of security officers and the management of such personnel were apparently not up to the standards of the University of the Philippines in Quezon City.

Ebdane denied reports that ransom was paid to the kidnappers.

"Definitely, no ransom was paid. I personally know what happened from the time they were abducted after the report until the time they were released," he said.

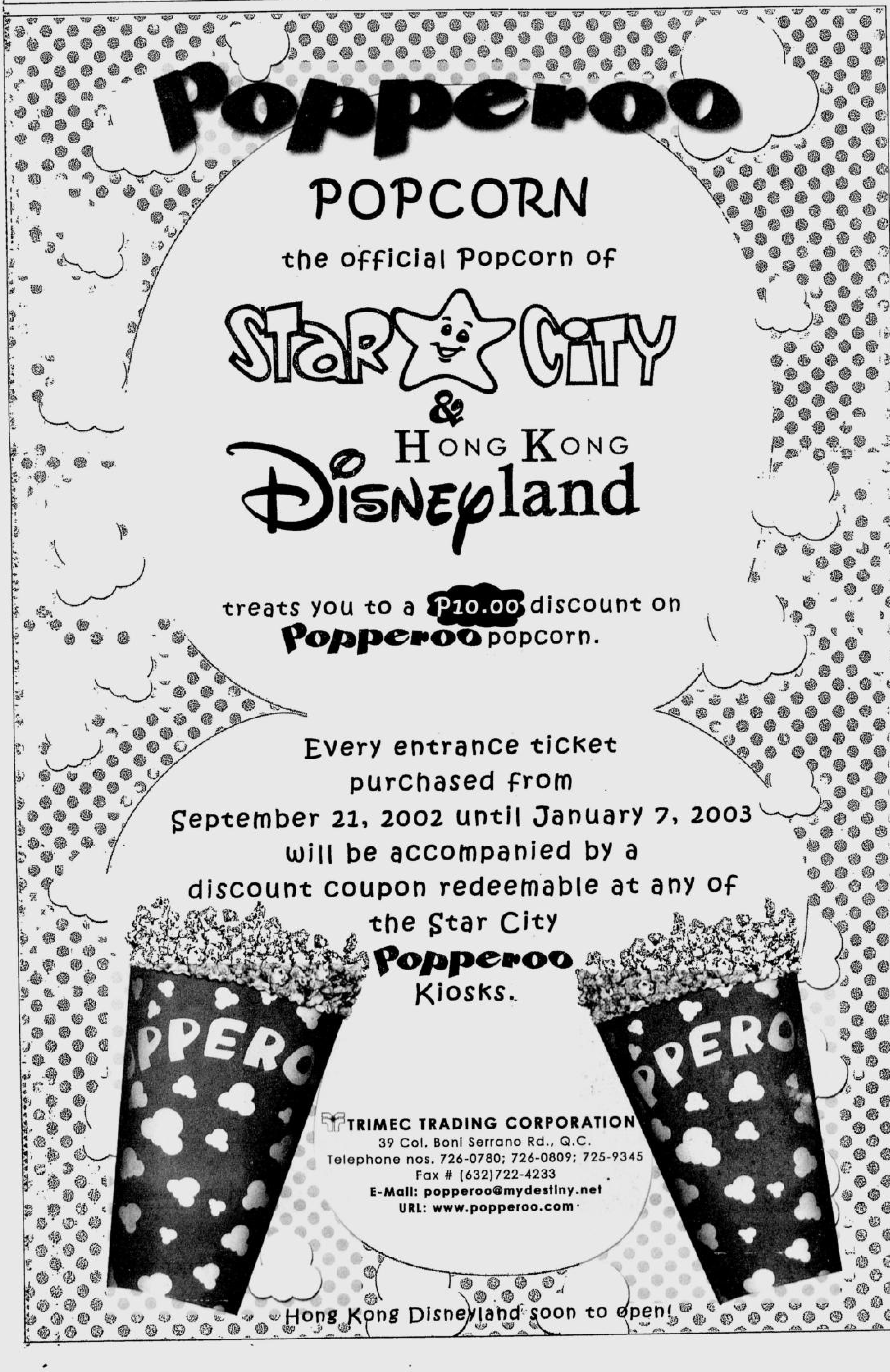
There have been reports that the negotiators had paid P200,000 to the captors for the victims' "board and lodging," a euphemism for ransom. The kidnappers had demanded a ransom of P7 million, reportedly representing the dismissed security guards' unpaid wages.

House Assistant Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla meanwhile said Congress should investigate reports that the government may have paid the ransom.

In a statement, Remulla quoted Social Welfare Undersecretary Omira Lucman as saying in a radio interview that government negotiators had paid an undetermined amount of "board and lodging fee" to the kidnappers.

"This is ransom payment, period," Remulla said. "If what was paid to these bandits was board and lodging fee, then we might as well promote kidnapping as part of our tourism program."

He said Congress should investigate as it was a "complete turnaround to the no-ransom policy of the government." *With a report from Christine Avendaño*



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Money key to survival of Catholic schools

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Financial stability is the key to the survival of Catholic schools in the country.

Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ, president of the Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU), made the statement during the annual convention of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) here.

"As with business, a school with serious financial problem, like an unhealthy individual, cannot do much, no matter how noble its intentions (are)," Nebres said.

But he quickly added that financial stability does not mean that Catholic schools should think of profitability in their operations.

He said good leadership and the support of the community could help CEAP schools attain financial stability.

"I believe that the central challenge is leadership and community support. Our leadership sometimes brings us to crises, which are our defining moments," Nebres said.

He cited the experience of the Ateneo schools in the country, where the schools' leadership and the community worked together.

Nebres said the Ateneo experience could provide a good model for the operation of Catholic schools in the Philippines. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Shorter work period eyed in lieu of pay hike

INSTEAD of a wage increase, government workers can look forward to a shorter work period.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said this is among the "non-monetary benefits" being worked out in lieu of a salary increase for government employees.

She said any additional cash incentives would also be "very difficult" since the government is running a huge budget deficit.

Some militant government unions have demanded a P3,000 across the board increase.

Stop US-led war vs. Iraq!
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CHURCH workers from 22 countries rally in front of the US embassy to protest the US-led war against Iraq.

ERIK ARAZAS

Gov't tells petroleum firms to stock up amid war fears

By Carlito Pablo

PETROLEUM companies will be required to maintain a minimum amount of oil inventory in anticipation of war breaking out between the United States and Iraq, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

The President said she has asked Energy Secretary Vincent Perez to prepare an executive order for her signature to put this scheme in place.

"With this in-country oil inventory, there will be no need to hoard, there will only be a need to conserve,"

Ms Macapagal said at a briefing after and inspection tour of the Malampaya natural gas project in Palawan, whose production has somewhat reduced the country's dependence on imported fuel.

She was accompanied by Perez, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, and retired Armed Forces chief Roy Cimatu, who now heads the inter-agency Middle East Preparedness Team.

The President said the country was also arranging a "special contingency bilateral supply" arrangements with traditional as well as new sources of oil supplies.

She did not identify these sources, citing "diplomatic prudence."

She also said the government has already identified which Middle East countries would be the scene of a relocation operation for Filipinos caught amidst the war.

"However, diplomatic prudence requires that we do not specify publicly what these countries are," the President said.

Cimatu has estimated that only five percent of some 1.3 million Filipinos in the Middle East would be affected but did not see the necessity of evacuating them back to the Philippines, Ms Macapagal said.

"We are in a better situation today than during previous Middle East crises," she said, referring to the 1991 Gulf War.

In a report to Malacañang, meanwhile, the National Economic and Development Authority said war between the US and Iraq would likely hurt the economy and slow down growth.

"The US-Iraq conflict has increased the downside risk to growth, although recent trends show the resiliency of the Philippine economy to the downturn in the IT (information technology) sector in (the) US and Europe," acting Neda chief Rafael Lotilla said in a letter to the Press Secretary.

The Press Secretary's office had asked the Neda to comment on an article published in a business daily on the International Monetary Fund's projection of a slower growth in the Philippine economy in 2003.

"The downgrade is true not only for the Philippines but for most countries," Lotilla said.

"The IMF's assessment is based on more recent trends that have emerged in 2002 such as the slower-than-expected recovery in the US and Europe, the weak momentum in the IT sector, the fall in the equities market as a result of corporate scandals in the US, and the global uncertainty arising from the US-Iraq conflict," Lotilla said.

Lotilla, however, assured the Palace that "barring a major economic upheaval in the world economy, the Philippines was maintaining its current GDP (gross domestic product) growth projection of 5 to 5.5 percent in 2003."

Lotilla also said that in order to minimize the impact of an expected surge in domestic oil prices in case of a war in the Middle East, "oil contingency measures are being drawn up, which include sourcing oil from Asian countries."

But going by the assessment of National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, an open war between the US and Iraq was not likely to break out, at least not until after the Ramadan season in November.

Golez said this assessment was based on his conversations with high-ranking officials of the US's state and defense departments and National Security Council, whom he did not identify.

"According to them, it will take long before actual hostilities start," Golez said over radio dzMM. "It won't happen tomorrow or next week and not even in October."

"And when we reach November, there won't be action because the Americans themselves are saying that they won't move during the time of Ramadan. They're looking at the sensitivities of the Muslim world," Golez said.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim year during which believers have no food or drink during the day.

"Unless there is a big provocation," the US will continue in its efforts to convince the United Nations Security Council to sanction a forceful move against Iraq, Golez said.

Church workers hit US war on terror

MORE than 100 church workers from 22 countries trooped to the US Embassy yesterday to urge a halt to what they called "US state terrorism" against Iraq and other targets of the war on terrorism.

Nuns and church leaders held up placards reading "No to US invasion on Iraq" and "Justice, not war" as anti-riot police stood by.

The protesters linked arms along the road in front of the embassy. Several speakers took turns denouncing the US-led anti-terror campaign.

"We are here . . . to say that among the things that must stop is the US aggression against Iraq (and) the US support for the Israeli aggression against Palestine," Rev. Chris Ferguson of the United Church of Canada said.

The demonstrators had just concluded a four-day conference in Manila on terrorism that issued a statement calling the war on terror "an opportunistic use of violence to consolidate and expand US economic, political, cultural and military hegemony, which amounts to state terrorism."

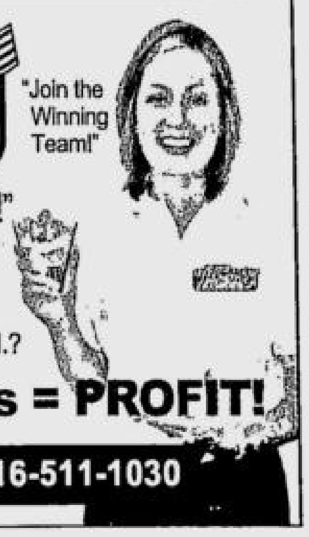
The International Ecumenical Conference on Terrorism in a Globalized World was attended by some 130 delegates, including 103 foreigners from 22 countries and 14 denominations, organizers said. *AP*

Cimatu to meet execs of 9 Mideast nations

SPECIAL envoy Roy Cimatu is scheduled to meet with top officials of six to nine Middle East countries to discuss oil security, civil defense and labor concerns.

Cimatu told reporters at the Department of Foreign Affairs that the government's Middle East Preparedness team is scheduled to leave for the so-called "high risk" countries anytime next week.

"There is still no definite schedule with regard to the trip," Cimatu said.



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OPINION

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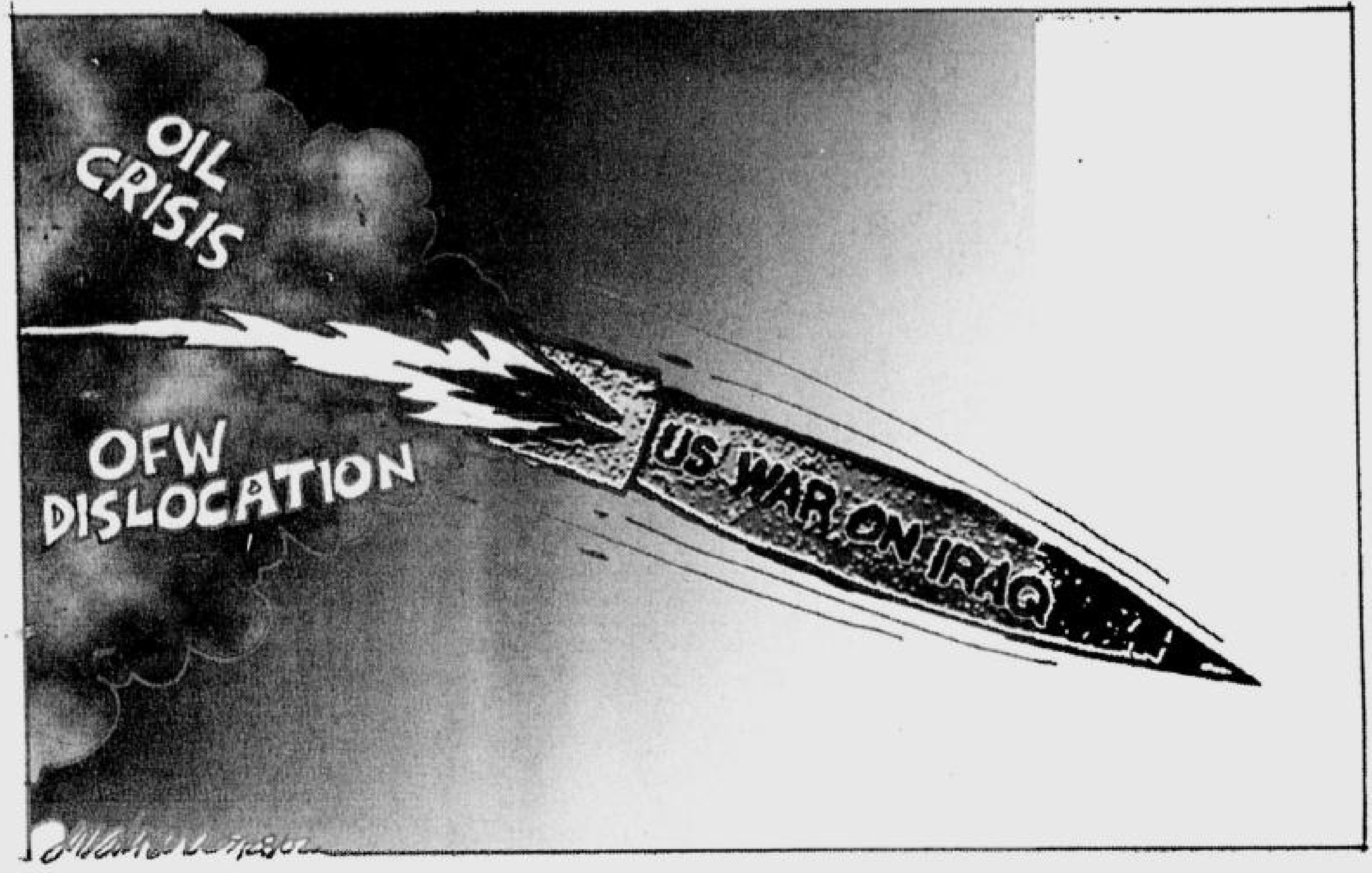

Growing US isolation

EDITORIAL

THE MAIN casualty of the German elections earlier this week, apart from the Christian Democrats which suffered a narrow defeat, was relations between the United States and Germany.

During the final days of the campaign when Gerhard Schroeder of the Social Democratic Party and Green coalition was running neck and neck with Edmund Stroiber of the conservative Christian Democrats, Schroeder provoked a strong reaction from the United States when he rebuffed the aggressive call of President George W. Bush for war on Iraq. The United States was further offended by the remarks of Schroeder's justice minister comparing Bush with Hitler.

This was too much for Washington, which not only expressed its outrage but also savagely accused the Schroeder government of siding with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Berlin explained the remarks but refused to apologize, further fueling Washington's rage. At no time since the end of World War II have the two transatlantic allies experienced such a deep split.

Saddam is not a lovable leader, and the majority of European opinion, including that in Germany and in England, which is the most supportive of Bush's war policy, would like to see him go. But the furious exchange of intemperate language between Berlin and Washington is just one facet of a widely shared opinion on the continent against the US strong-arm method in seeking support for an attack on Iraq.

It may be true that Schroeder gained political points at home by repudiating Bush (the Christian Democrats concede it helped him turn the tide in a tight election), but the United States can ignore only at its peril the fact that Schroeder has tapped a strong pacifist undercurrent in Germany. His statement that he would not want to see any German soldier fighting a war declared unilaterally by the United States touched a chord in a significant body of German public opinion.

This undercurrent is driven by Germany's traumatic defeat in two world wars and by the growing awareness that after unification and with Germany becoming the strongest economy on the continent, Germans should now determine their own destiny without being dragged along even by a monolithic superpower like the United States. This opinion is widely held by the younger generation and the inhabitants of former East Germany who have a residual anti-American attitude.

The fact that the anti-war posture helped Schroeder does not mean that most Germans have become anti-American. The resentment in Germany, as well as across Europe, is not against the United States but against the rough and insensitive strong-arm method employed by the hawkish Bush administration.

US officials attacked, with unprecedented venom, the Schroeder government on the eve of the elections in a blatant attempt to influence German affairs. Washington did not disguise its preference for the Christian Democrats, thereby drawing the lines of ideological alliance across the Atlantic.

The hawks in Washington are natural allies of the conservative parties in Europe, such as the Gaullist government of President Jacques Chirac in France. But even France and Britain, the strongest supporter of Bush's war policy, are not going all the way for Washington. They are trying to restrain Washington's obsessive drive to attack Iraq by channeling it into the UN Security Council where the UK is drafting tougher resolutions seeking to have a more effective UN inspection of Iraq's suspected facilities for production of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. In short, the four other permanent members of the Security Council—Britain, France, Russia and China—are trying to rein in the United States and find a formula where a consensus can be made to force Iraq to destroy its weapons of mass destruction.

There is now a divergence between the US and the British point of view. While the stated US goal is to topple Saddam, Prime Minister Tony Blair emphatically told Parliament the objective is to destroy the weapons, preferably following a Security Council mandate.

The US steamroller is encountering enormous resistance in the UN. It has far less support than when it launched its war against terrorism following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The United States further emphasized its displeasure with Germany when Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld snubbed the Germany foreign minister at a recent Nato meeting. Blair is trying to mediate a reconciliation between Berlin and Washington, but the snub has further poisoned German-US relations.

The US needs allies and friends. But at the rate it is antagonizing allies, it is isolating itself even in the UN.

Arrogation of powers

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

MANY lawyers, and other citizens as well, are anxiously awaiting the reaction of the House of Representatives to the expected denial by the Supreme Court of the motion for reconsideration of its recent decision invalidating the release of Rep. Mark Jimenez on a P1 million bail bond and ordering his arrest.

Through Justice Artemio V. Panganiban and seven of his colleagues, the Court held that RTC Judge Guillermo Purganan committed grave abuse of discretion in granting bail to Jimenez. The right to bail, it ruled, was not applicable to extradition proceedings, which are not criminal in nature.

A brief review of the case might be instructive.

On June 18, 1999, the Department of Foreign Affairs sent to the Department of Justice the request for the extradition of Jimenez to the United States. The *note verbale* alleged that he had committed in that country 47 counts of various offenses, including conspiracy to defraud the US government, tax evasion, fraud by wire, radio or television, false statements or entries, and illegal election contributions.

While the request was being evaluated by the DOJ, Jimenez secured a favorable decision from the Supreme Court on his demand to be furnished copies of the US request and all its enclosures. The 9-6 decision met with much public objection and was subsequently reversed by an opposite 9-6 vote.

On May 14, 2001, Jimenez was elected to the House of Representatives from the 6th district of Manila. An election protest based on election irregularities and two quo warranto petitions for lack of qualifications were filed against him. These are now still pending in the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal, but one of the petitions is scheduled to be decided soon.

The extradition case was filed by the DOJ on March 18, 2001, but Jimenez was not arrested because he posted a P1 million bail bond. The case is also still pending although more than a year has elapsed since its filing.

The grant of the P1 million bail to Jimenez was questioned by the DOJ, which was sustained by the Supreme Court last Tuesday. Unless reversed on reconsideration, the decision will call for the arrest of Jimenez and his imprisonment pending the decision of the extradition case.

The resolution filed by the congressman in favor of their colleague seeks either to interfere with the Supreme Court or even to unduly pressure it in its decision of the case. There is no doubt at all that the question before it is not political but justiciable, meaning that it is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts.

Even if the resolution were signed by all the 214 congressmen—and throw in all the 24 senators—and even also the President of the Philippines—it could not avail against the 14 justices—or even only a majority of them—sitting on the Supreme Court.

Some congressmen have reportedly threatened the Supreme Court justices with impeachment if they should be so rash as to rule against Jimenez. One of them is Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, son of my good friend and colleague, the late Sen. Neptali A. Gonzales. I am sure that, as an acknowledged authority on political law, my *pareng* Nep would have given better advice.

Fortunately, we are assured by Speaker Jose de Venecia that the House of Representatives will abide by whatever the Supreme Court decides. That may be easier said than done, though, considering the temper and loyalties of his colleagues.

We may recall when in 1997 Rep. Ceferino Paredes, who was then facing corruption charges, was preventively suspended by the Sandiganbayan, in accordance with the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. His chamber contemptuously dismissed the court order, declaring that it alone had the power to punish its members.

Facing similar charges, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago was also preventively suspended by the Sandiganbayan but her colleagues, forgetting partisan differences, also rallied to her defense. Invoking its own exclusive disciplinary power over its members, the Senate also insolently defied the judicial decree even as earlier upheld by the Supreme Court.

The high court had declared that the disciplinary power of Congress did not exclude the power of the Sandiganbayan to preventively suspend persons facing graft charges. This was authorized by the graft law Congress itself had enacted; moreover, the order was in fact, only preventive and not punitive. But the ruling fell on deaf ears in the legislature and the suspended members remained unsuspended.

Was the doctrine of separation of powers upheld or discarded?

The people expected the Supreme Court to enforce its order, but it never did. In this confrontation between the Legislature and the Judiciary, it was the Supreme Court that was correct—but it was the one that blinked.

What will happen if the Supreme Court rules against Jimenez and denies his motion for reconsideration? Will the House of Representatives respectfully obey the final and executory order or will it arrogantly stand pat and, as in the Paredes and Santiago cases, protect Jimenez? More importantly, how will the new Supreme Court react if its order is defied?

Will the SC stick to its decision?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

WADING through the decision and five separate opinions on the Mark Jimenez case, I was impressed by what was **not** there.

Nowhere was there any reference to the "Congress" card that Jimenez and his sympathizers are now playing: namely, separation of powers, parliamentary immunity and his district's right to representation. It was almost as if both Jimenez and the Supreme Court were avoiding the issue. There was only a passing reference (about two lines) in the opinions of Justices Antonio Carpio and Josue Bellosillo, and Jimenez did not include being a congressman as a special circumstance.

I also did not realize, until I saw the title of the case, that the petitioner was the government of the United States of America, represented by our own Department of Justice. I would bet that there have not been many cases before the Supreme Court where the US government is either a petitioner or a respondent.

Has the fact that the US government is the petitioner affected the proceedings? Justice Consuelo Ynares Santiago thinks so: "The sheer novelty of the world's only superpower asking that a Filipino be brought before it to face criminal prosecution seems to mesmerize policymakers and this Court alike into depriving that citizen of constitutional protections." Phew.

Santiago criticizes her colleagues for being "too sweeping and dogmatic." She says, "I find the views on the indiscriminate denial of fundamental rights too open-ended and heedless of entrenched jurisprudence on Bill of Rights protections."

It was not easy reading the SC documents. First, because they consisted of 130 pages, including concurring, separate and dissenting opinions, and second, because, as Carpio stated, extradition is still in its infancy in this country. Trail blazing is not easy, even for us observers.

The majority decision, written by Justice Artemio Panganiban, was that in extradition proceedings, the general rule is that prospective extraditees are not entitled to notice and hearing before warrants for their arrest are issued, and neither are they entitled to the right to bail and provisional liberty during the proceedings. His 48-page opus was devoted to explaining this rule and the exceptions to it. Apparently, the situation of Jimenez, a.k.a. Mario Batacan Crespo, did not meet the special circumstances that merit an exception.

Carpio's concurring opinion explains more graphically. Jimenez, says Carpio, failed to establish that he is not a flight risk: he fled the United States as he was about to be indicted; he refused to honor an agreement with the US Justice Department, through his US counsel to return to the United States; he faces a maximum prison term of not less than 100 years if convicted on all counts; he has the resources to flee.

Moreover, continues Carpio relentlessly, the "special circumstances" Jimenez listed cannot be given credence. Item: He has been admitted to the Witness Protection Program (problem: he cannot show a certificate of admission to the program, and the DOJ says there is no record of it). Item: He is a state witness against former President Joseph Estrada (again, no basis). Item: The DOJ knows his whereabouts because he is under 24-hour PNP protection provided by the justice department (the DOJ denies this, and Carpio surmises that as a congressman, Jimenez might have asked for it, which means the security detail takes instructions from him). Item: He has seven children in the Philippines (they would hardly become public charges). Item: He has no visas (lack of visas never deterred the flight of fugitives; Asean countries require no visas).

On this same issue, Santiago, joined by Justice Angelina Sandoval Gutierrez, said that the Court was "overly influenced" by the fear of the extraditee's flight. And even if there is possibility of flight, this is not a reason to deny him notice of proceedings or the right of provisional liberty while his case is pending.

Justice Jose Vitug, in a separate opinion, also voted to deny the US government's petition. For him, a person's fundamental right to bail is clear. "No statute or treaty can abrogate or discard its language and its intent."

Justices Josue Bellosillo and Reynato Puno also wrote separate opinions, voting to remand the case to the lower court. Puno, joined by Justice Leonardo Quisumbing, rebuts almost point by point the majority decision. Bellosillo opines that given the personal circumstances of Jimenez—popular, even notorious, a congressman—he has more to lose from flight, and thus the possibility is remote and speculative. The justice must have forgotten Batasang Pambansa member Arturo Pacificador's escape, and that congressmen seem to have a penchant for thinking themselves to be above the law.

Six separate opinions among 14 justices. Eight voting essentially against bail, three voting for bail and three saying that the lower court should decide.

For sure, Jimenez will ask for a reconsideration. What is not sure is whether the majority will hold. Given the close vote on whether Jimenez is a flight risk, and given the pressure that the old boys' club we call Congress is brazenly applying, a reversal is not impossible. Or the Court could choose the line of least resistance and delay until the issue becomes moot and academic, as it did in the cases involving other lawmakers like Paredes, Defensor-Santiago and De Venecia, where the decisions against them were handed down when they were no longer in office.

I hope this Court is made of sterner stuff.

Dispute among top Ateneo law alumni

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT'S interesting to note that the people debating the fate of Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez—Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez on one side, and Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J., on the other side—come from the Ateneo College of Law. Bernas graduated in the late 1950s, while Perez is from class '61 and Gutierrez from class '72.

Perez and Gutierrez maintain that Jimenez ought to be arrested right away, following the decision of the Supreme Court cancelling his bail, inasmuch as the extradition case constitutes summary proceedings that seek to remove the high risk of flight. They say the decision is already executory.

On the other hand Bernas, in questioning the ruling, maintains that the bail issue should be left to the discretion of the lower court and that at any rate, the DOJ has first to make sure the ruling becomes final and executory after a motion for reconsideration by the extraditee has been heard. He also says that Jimenez has to be presumed innocent since he hasn't been convicted yet.

Gutierrez, when asked for comment, said with a laugh that it's a "healthy difference of opinion."

* * *

Standard editor in chief Jullie Yap Daza spoke recently about the acute shortage of nurses in this country. It seems everyone is talking about this problem that has been plaguing the country's hospitals at all levels. We're losing them in droves to the United States and the United Kingdom, since they are attracted by good pay (about $22 an hour is the going rate in the United States) and getting the prized green card (for those who are bound for the United States).

* * *

In the dzRH program I co-host with Cecile Guidote Alvarez every Sunday at 9:15 p.m., where we focus mainly on private sector efforts to help alleviate poverty, we had as guest a week ago Larry Esguerra, a consultant for one of the biggest overseas employment agencies here, Sangle-Bernabe International. The firm sends nurses and doctors to the US. A veteran of 22 years in the overseas employment field, Esguerra confirmed that Filipinos are now in bigger demand than ever in the US in the field of health service, such as nursing, physical therapy and care-giving in nursing homes, because of their inimitable manners. One prestigious US medical institution that has been advertising in local papers for Filipino nurses is the Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. One big reason for the acute shortage in the care-giving field is that Americans are no longer interested in it, preferring the less taxing and better-paying fields such as computer engineering and business management.

* * *

Esguerra confirmed that apart from the attractive pay being offered in many states, the main attraction for our nurses is that they can bring their families. He also said the demand is so big that there are many cases of Filipino doctors who entered nursing schools so they can work abroad. They are hoping to practice their original profession by taking the medical board exams there later.

* * *

Last Sept. 19, it was my good fortune to sit beside Dr. Rolando S. Songco, director of the Hospital of the Infant Jesus in Laon-Laan, Manila, at the breakfast he hosted in honor of Fr. Pierre Tritz on the occasion of the 88th birthday of the founder of the Erda Foundation. Father Tritz, to save on board and lodging, has been for many years now serving as chaplain in this hospital, in addition to his duties at Erda. Dr. Songco revealed that since 1998, his tertiary general hospital has lost over 100 nurses, most of whom went to the United Kingdom, while the rest went to the US, Saudi Arabia and Canada. This does not include nurses who resigned to prepare for the examinations they have to pass before they can apply for employment in the US. The tragedy, said Dr. Songco, is that the hospital has been losing not only the young ones, but also those with three to five years' experience. One consequence is that they cannot open one ward.

* * *

So acute is the shortage in many hospitals that at times nurses have to work straight for as long as 18 hours. Moreover, some hospitals are now forced to grab anyone who applies. It's easy to see how dangerous to the public health all this can be.

Then, too, many hospitals have postponed expansion plans due to the acute shortage and administrators have expressed helplessness in the face of foreign competition.

Perhaps Congress should look into this problem and find a way to require minimum service here, similar to a ruling operating during the martial law years, which required our nurses to serve at least two years.

* * *

If you haven't seen the roving exhibit on the life and work of Blessed Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer, founder of Opus Dei, who will be canonized in Rome next Sunday, Oct. 6, you have a chance to do so during the next three days until the end of this month at the Riverbanks Mall in Marikina City. Afterwards it will be transferred to the Shangri-la Plaza Mall, along Edsa where it will stay during the week of Blessed Josemaria's canonization up to Oct. 15.

* * *

My good friend and fellow Holy Land pilgrim in Jubilee Year 2000, Sr. Cora Gonzales of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary which runs Stella Maris and other schools, has asked for help to reach those who would like to join her and other pilgrims for the beatification of their founder, Mother Mary of the Passion in Rome, on Oct. 20. The pilgrims will trace the important events and places in Mary of the Passion's life in France and Italy and visit other famous religious sites such as Padre Pio's town, San Giovanni Rotondo. For details, contact Sister Cora at 563-3070 or Arlina Onglao at Journeys of Faith, 929-0144 or 929-0155.

A story in two acts

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ONE of the more interesting aspects of Brazil's successful campaign to "turn the tide" of a major AIDS epidemic was that it was propelled by the country's own turning away from dictatorship to democracy.

Among activists, says a prominent advocate, "the fight against AIDS...was always articulated as part of a broader campaign against social exclusion...(resonating) with a range of social movements relating to gender, sexuality, poverty and class because it was seen as an integral step in constructing a truly open society."

Writing in the latest issue of the Ford Foundation Report, New York Times contributor Christopher Reardon says that while in the 1980s "the relationship between civil society groups and many government agencies remained mired in old antagonisms," with time both groups learned to work together.

"One early victory that paved the way for Brazil's current AIDS program came in 1986, when public health activists mounted a popular campaign that prompted federal officials to overhaul the public health-care system. Lawmakers replaced the old patchwork of care and payment mechanisms with a single unified system based on three core principles: universal access, free medical care and decentralized administration. These principles—which held such weight with the electorate that they were written into the new constitution adopted in 1988—became the backbone of Brazil's AIDS program."

NGOs and government agencies both have strengths to contribute to the struggle. NGOs can take risks and respond to local communities in ways that federal agencies cannot. For instance, some NGOs have set up needle exchange programs for injecting drug users, "a highly vulnerable group that is often wary of government health workers." On the other hand, national agencies and programs "have the capacity to implement successful policies on a vast scale."

* * *

BRAZIL'S prevention efforts have been keeping the epidemic in check, says Reardon. "Condom use is way up...and new infections are down. Perhaps the most telling measure is this: In 1995 the World Bank estimated that 1.2 million Brazilians would enter the new millennium with HIV/AIDS. Instead the virus has infected half that number."

What has drawn more intense scrutiny and attention, however, has been Brazil's "bold stance on treatment."

Believing, as Brazilian health minister Jose Serra put it, that "access to medicines is a basic human right," the government set out to create in its own research labs "generic" versions of drugs that were being used as part of "combination therapy" to slow down the onset of the disease. But it had to take on the multinationals to bring down the prices of new drugs like protease inhibitors so they could make the "AIDS cocktail" part of standard therapy universally accessible to all Brazilians living with HIV.

"The basic strategy is this: If a drug maker refuses to reduce its profit margin, Brazil will invoke a WTO rule that lets member nations break patents to combat public health crises... So far the strategy is working well. Brazil won price cuts last year on three of the costliest drugs in its anti-AIDS cocktail." This even as the drug makers were still able to make profit margins of 15-20 percent.

* * *

THE PRICE cuts not only allow the government to make a windfall from the production of generic drugs, it also enables the government to "treat more people for less money."

Brazil's health authorities, says Reardon, "flatly reject criticisms likening the activities (at the government laboratory) to pirating movies or music." Says Rosemeire Munhoz, a senior official at the government's National STD/AIDS Program: "We're not doing this to make a profit. We're using technology to save human lives. As long as that technology exists, we think people in Brazil have a right to benefit from it."

Contrast Brazil's bold stance with the attitude taken by most governments in the developing world, including the Philippines, that being so expensive, AIDS treatment is simply beyond the reach of the majority of its citizens. While some governments have rightly chosen to concentrate their efforts on prevention and education, Brazil has shown that universal access to treatment should be part of the package, too.

* * *

"LATELY the World Bank has recognized that treatment can be cost-effective, even among the poorly educated, and that it can help with prevention. Indeed, Brazil has shown that treatment is not just a palliative measure, but a sound policy that contributes to public health. All of the evidence points to the conclusion that voluntary, confidential testing leads to earlier diagnosis and better treatment, which in turn keep viral loads down and self-esteem up. When people living with HIV are healthy, they are less likely to engage in risky behavior that can spread the virus," says Reardon.

Still, Brazil's "success story" has to be read as a story in two acts that are unfolding simultaneously. "What's often glorified are technical things, like the distribution of antiretrovirals," says Richard Parker, president of the Brazilian NGO ABIA. "But if activists had not done all that legal aid and advocacy work in the '80s and early '90s, the concept of access to antiretroviral treatment as a basic right of citizenship would be unthinkable."

And may I add that until authorities and opinion makers become less judgmental about people living with the virus, they will forever remain incapable of wrapping their minds around the concept of treatment as a human right.

Operas and executions

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE FILIPINOS' love of music was easily observable by foreigners. The occasional visit by opera troupes or minstrel shows always received a warm welcome "equaling what the circus gets from a small boy." When these groups left, the city would fall back on local entertainment but even then the theaters were full.

Theater etiquette wasn't rigid. Every one could—and did—smoke and during intermission would even wander behind the scenes. Drop curtains were covered with ads for pills, hats, or carriages. The manager was only strict about fires. During the summer, two firemen were stationed in front of the main entrance with hose in hand!

Native theaters were unroofed, fenced with bamboo and had rustic seats. At the far end from the entrance was a covered stage where actors would speak their piece after the prompter had spoken. Tickets cost two, three or at most five cents.

Filipinos it seemed, loved to celebrate their fiestas for a whole week. As William Cumming wrote in the Century Magazine: "Almost all processions took place at night and the effect was most picturesque. There would be a line of marchers, men, women and children, walking in single file on each side of the street, every one with a lighted candle in his hand. At intervals, in the middle of the road, images of the Savior, the Virgin and the saints, borne upon the shoulders of 12 to 30 men, and surrounded by priests, with a band of music in advance proceeded. Some of the images were covered with diamonds and other precious stones, said to be enormously valuable. In these cases there was always a guard of soldiers with fixed bayonets about the image. Often there would be thousands of people walking in these processions, and all the while it was moving, tens of thousands of rockets and bombs would be fired. These rockets and bombs are home-made...They cost a trifle, but make a great noise, and no fiesta is complete without plenty of them."

Another festivity during the Spanish period was the spring regatta watched by the governor general and his family from Malacañang. "A mile and half further east, the pony races of the high-toned English jockey club would come off in March on the club's spacious leased grounds, with a regular ring and huge grandstand, as in the suburbs of Santa Mesa." These had fallen off too with the coming of the Americans and thankfully as far as Hannaford was concerned "curtailed...the inordinate betting that forms the Tagal's one utterly uncontrolled vice."

Garroting was another occasion for a fiesta. The fatal procession would move from the jail on foot or carriages with the cavalry and the priests, a functionary wearing an apron and carrying "the sacred banner of the church embroidered in black and gold," the prison officials, and in open *carromata* within a marching square of soldiery, the condemned man, with a priest on either side either counseling or consoling him. Then came the executioner who walked by himself, and finally some infantrymen with fixed bayonets.

In the meantime people of all ages and sexes would crowd around the platform where the execution was to take place. "The garrote may be described as a collar of brass or iron, its front piece opening on a hinge, and part of its back piece capable of being thrust forward under the impulse of a big screw that works through the upright post to which the victim, with his neck inside the metal collar, has been fastened. The screw in question operates on the same principle as in an ordinary letter press. When all was ready the executioner would give the screw a complete turn, and the moving back piece would be pushed forward against the victim's spine, at the base of the neck, with such force as to snap the spinal cord and produce instantaneous death."

More sophisticated or newer models had a stout pin at the back that pierced the spine and caused death without crushing the corpse so much.

Manila executioners were pardoned criminals who were released on condition that they would break the neck of others. They were better paid than 49 teachers out of every 50.

The execution was highly dramatic. The priests would ascend the platform ahead of the condemned man, the standard bearer standing at the head of the steps. The criminal was fastened to the post and a white cloak thrown over his shoulders and a rope around his waist. A white hood was placed over his head. Then two priests held their crucifixes before him and sprinkled holy water over the hood and the long white robe. The chief prison official would wave his sword and the executioner then gave the screw handle a sudden twist. All the crowd would see was a slight forward movement of the criminal's two bare feet.

The doctor would tarry a while as the priests read several prayers and shake holy water over the corpse. The remnants of the procession returned to prison and the troops stationed themselves in a large hollow square around the scaffold while the white, motionless figure was left in the hot sun till noon.

The crowd would then disperse, the young girls chatting with each other (where they comparing notes perhaps?), bands playing and the ladies waving handkerchiefs from their carriages.

In limbo

EVER since I was a kid, I have always sort of dreaded graduating from college. It seemed to me like a kind of death—the death of my youth.

All my life, I have been going to school to get an "education," but what it really means is meeting up with friends and going to "gimmicks," scouting cute guys and having a good time. And it all ends when I graduate. No longer will I be able to just ask my parents for the money; they will tell me I have to earn it now. If I want to buy clothes and stuff, I've got to earn the money to buy them. If I want to load my cellphone or go out with my friends, the money has to come from my own pocket.

YOUNG BLOOD

Redgie de Guzman

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

And then there's this horrible reality of me having to get a job. Life out of school is an entirely different kind of existence for me, and I didn't have enough time to prepare before I was shoved into it. One day, we were just rehearsing our graduation song, and before that sank in, I was already holding my diploma. So there I was standing on the brink of the unknown, with nothing but a bunch of numbers my teachers claimed I had "earned" and a paper that served as proof that I really did go to this institution and worked for a degree.

Together with a bunch of my friends (we called ourselves "The Fellowship") we would scour job openings by area. Today, it's Makati, tomorrow Ortigas. We would meet in school for some last-minute printing and photocopying of resumés that we would distribute that day. Every Monday, we'd be armed with cut-outs from the classified ad sections of the Sunday newspapers and then we would scour the areas again for the job opportunities we had missed when we were there before.

We did this for about a month—until the day that the Fellowship was broken. That was on the day when I found out that our whole family was moving to California in two weeks' time.

It was quite a surprise for us. We had been planning it for some time, but the original idea was that only my parents would go while I would stay behind with my siblings until they finished high school. Besides, we couldn't get five tickets because airlines were all fully booked. But then one Tuesday morning in May (I remember we didn't go job hunting that day), my sister told me we were booked for the 23rd.

That gave me all of 15 days to wind up my affairs (like getting my school records, going to the doctor and the dentist, etc.), sort and pack my stuff (boxes of books, albums, magazines, clothes, letters, school stuff, stuff people gave me, etc.), say goodbye to everyone (even to people I hadn't seen for some time, like my high school friends), come to grips with the reality and brace myself for a new life in a foreign land. (I've written that down according to the degree of difficulty, and by far the most difficult is turning out to be the last one, though the third—saying goodbye—is not too far behind.) Graduation and looking for a job had not even fully sunk in yet, and there I was moving to the other side of the planet.

My head felt like it was spinning and exploding. Everything seemed to be happening too fast, and I couldn't catch up. However, I tried my best to do everything.

Now that I'm here, I feel like I'm missing some pieces, like an incomplete puzzle. After three months, I still haven't come completely to grips with it, and I still have to remind myself that I am really here, that my cousins are not living next door, and that I can't take the MRT to meet my friends at Glorietta. I constantly remind myself, but a part of my brain just simply refuses to accept it.

I have to admit that I have no overwhelming desire to go back home. It's more like I want to bring my relatives and friends here. There's so much to see and do. And then there's the realization that I am in a perfect position to create a new life for myself, and I can do that easier here, where I will have more opportunities, where life, in many ways, isn't so hard.

I keep telling myself that, and that, too, doesn't register in my mind. When it comes to certain things, like algebra or calculus, or accepting certain facts, my brain just goes blank.

So I am constantly in limbo nowadays. Doubts, fears, worries, frustrations, regrets, insecurities, even the things I want to do now that I am really here, they are all swirling in my head. It feels like it's going to burst, and it's really driving me crazy.

People here aren't any help. They are too wrapped up in their own worlds to pay any heed to me.

So I guess I really have no choice but to deal with this what-ever-it-is by myself. It would be so much easier if I have some idea where to start, and what to do, or even what it is in the first place. Of course, being in the United States, the sensible thing to do if something is bothering me is probably to see a shrink. But I prefer to deal with this by myself, even if it takes me forever.

It may not actually take forever. Maybe in a decade or two, when I am living the "American Dream," it will sink in.

Redgie de Guzman, 20, graduated last march from Saint Scholastica's College with a degree in mass communication. She works part-time at the gift shop of a hotel in Santa Monica, California.

THEY SAID

Aid for bombs

"Instead of bombing the Afghan state, why don't they give humanitarian aid? This is a loss for the US government because the future leadership should be based on morals, not on power."

—Ramon Magsaysay awardee Pomnyun Snim, criticizing the United States' anti-terror policy

Onerous

"We cannot in conscience pass on to the Filipino people the loathsome burdens of an onerous contract especially if we still have the opportunity to do something about it."

—Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye on the Naia 3 deal with Piatco

Life well-lived

"If I were to live my life all over again, I would have no objection."

—Dr. Ruth Pfau, medical doctor and Catholic nun who received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for 2002

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Lies told by PCGG's Swiss lawyer

I WAS happy to read that Martin Kurer had resigned (or was he fired?) as the counsel of the Presidential Commission on Good Government. He should have just quit while he was ahead. Now I have to set the record straight.

Kurer said that the PCGG had not filed a case against UBS so there was no conflict of interest between his employment as PCGG counsel add his brother's appointment as UBS group counsel.

No case was filed because Kurer told the PCGG that UBS Account 885931—or the Irene Araneta account—did not exist.

Then PCGG Chair Magdangal Elma parroted Kurer and made a similar statement. Swiss Prosecutor Dieter Jann also said the same thing and even added that the numbering system does not match any numbering system used by UBS.

Imagine everybody's surprise when Dr. David Chaikin, an expert on international money laundering and the lawyer of Reiner Jacobi, and German journalist Peter Muller presented videotaped evidence at the Senate blue ribbon committee showing a UBS bank official saying that Ferdinand Marcos had an account with the bank with "only a few millions dollars in it."

Chaikin also showed to the blue ribbon committee a document submitted by the US lawyers of UBS to the US District Court confirming the existence of UBS Account 885931, but stating that it was not under the name of the Marcoses, enumerating all the names of the Marcos heirs, but conveniently omitting one name: that of Irene Marcos Araneta.

All of a sudden, Kurer said UBS account 885931 did exist but it was not under the name of the Marcoses.

Elma said the same thing. (What else could he do? Kurer made the admission in an open committee hearing probably embarrassing the chair!) Jann even repeated the statement but did not explain how it was possible that the account number discovered by Jacobi now mysteriously and just suddenly matched the numbering system of UBS bank accounts. Wow! *Galing ano? Magic*!!!

Kurer's contention that his brother was appointed to the UBS post after German intelligence operatives caught Irene Marcos-Araneta allegedly trying to transfer her funds from Swiss banks to a German bank doesn't make his concealment of this fact excusable.

Even casually mentioning the fact to Chair Haydee Yorac does not amount to full disclosure, assuming that he did in fact mention it to her. I think Yorac would remember information as critical as this one if it was relayed to her.

I am just glad that Kurer is gone. But with some luck, the PCGG may yet snatch defeat from the jaws of victory and give Kurer another six months. What does he have to do to get the heave-ho immediately?

—NAPOLEON J.A. EBARLE III,
Quezon City

Put Basic Education Curriculum on hold

I WOULD like Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus to consider putting the 2002 Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) on hold until it is given a seal of approval by competent bodies other than the Department of Education itself.

Law (which, in a manner of speaking, the BEC is) is the expression of the general will, and all citizens have the right to take part, in person or through their representatives, in its formation. To my mind, the BEC is first and foremost a flawed "law" because it is not the consensual manifestation of the general will. There never was a democratic process of consultation in the creation of what would become the emphasis and direction of all teaching and learning processes in Philippine schools. Are we supposed to simply take former Education Secretary Raul Roco's word for it—that the BEC is as good as he says it is?

Society has the right to hold accountable every public agent of administration (and by extension, the result of his deeds and policies while in office). If it feels that the greater good of the greater majority is at risk, citizens have a right to protect themselves from harm whether evident or hidden. The BEC, on account of its faulty structure, questionable time allotments (a Grade 5 or Grade 6 pupil studying under the three-shift session being implemented in many of our biggest public elementary schools stands to lose as much as one month in a school year), error-studded 'textbooks, and degenerate lesson plans, poses a clear and present danger to the children of this land and to the future of our society.

Apologists for the BEC say that it is only an experimental test that in one or two years may or may not be allowed to continue in its present state. The following valid questions beg to be answered: Why couldn't we have limited its implementation to just a few pilot schools selected at random? Why not compel the likes of Ateneo, La Salle, or Miriam College, where all the descendants of the rich and powerful are studying, to try it first? Why make guinea pigs of the children of the poor who are studying in public schools?

Forcing the BEC upon our children is like asking a tubercular patient to take cyanide: it will cure him by killing him.

—ANTONIO CALIPJO GO,
academic supervisor, Marian
School of Quezon City, 199 Sauyo
Rd., Novaliches, Quezon City

Violation of suspects' rights

THIS refers to your story "GMA approval rating plunges in SWS poll." (PDI, 9/24/02)

It is easy to understand why President Macapagal-Arroyo's ratings are down. She should know that she is violating the human rights of suspects when she is presenting suspects to the media and journalists are violating the Code of Ethics of Journalism when they cover the presentation of suspects to the media.

As a *balikbayan* journalist from Australia, I don't know a president, prime minister and law enforcer abroad who present suspects to the media. Only in the Philippines.

I have written a book "Ethics in Journalism" to stress the fact that presenting suspects to the media is not part of the judicial system in the Philippines and other countries.

—OSCAR R. LANDICHO,
c/o National Press Club
of the Philippines,
Intramuros, Manila

Higher charges for fewer services

THIS is to bring to your attention an issue relating to basic water services m Manila, as provided by Maynilad and the Manila Water Co. Inc.

You may be aware that several subdivisions in Marikina, Parañaque and Pasig have been experiencing acute water shortages for many years now, while some of us have been charged with high water rates. The United Homeowners Association Against Water Service Injustice (UHAW) which I head in Pasig has aired its grievance with Manila Water, MWSS and local officials, but the problem still persists

The House committee on government enterprises and privatization recently conducted a hearing on this problem which revealed a crisis within the MWSS Regulatory Board, ranging from possible collusion with the water concessionaires to power struggles within the organization resulting in the poor performance of its litigation department.

May I submit for your consideration the results of our investigation into the bulk-selling scheme of Manila Water which services Pasig. All eight UHAW member subdivisions in Pasig are paying their water rates under this system.

The MWCI uses the bulk-selling scheme to sell water to a subdivision, via a mother meter. The residents must do their own reading of the meters, compute the shared charges, distribute the bills, collect payments, remit payments to the MWCI, as well as maintain and repair the water system.

The charges are computed on the basis of a complicated formula, which changes from time to time, such that ordinary residents can hardly keep up with the changes.

Disconnection and reconnection of the water line are left entirely to the residents. Busted pipes and leaks in the subdivision's water system are also repaired by the residents at their own expense. But losses incurred (called non-revenue water) are added to the residents' water bills.

The charges under the bulk-selling scheme are more than twice the rate charged individual meter holders. In spite of its higher charges, Manila Water provides no service to our subdivisions. The bulk-selling scheme completely abandons the concept of "public service," since Manila Water simply sells water, and it does nothing with regard to maintaining the water system, repairing leaks or damaged pipes, or even reading the meters or collecting payments.

Manila Water services half of Metro Manila and its bulk-selling scheme must affect many places other than the eight subdivisions of Pasig.

—CORAZON CONCEPCION,
Blk 3 Lot 10, Ciudad del Carmen
Subd., Pasig City

Rebates on P2-M losses

THANK you for publishing the article "Pagcor: No public humiliation ever happened" last Sept. 18. We appreciate being given the opportunity to air our side on the charges filed by David So against the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. and enlighten the people on this issue.

However, we would like to point out that Casino Filipino players receive a rebate of 5 percent for every P2 million loss and not for every P1 million loss as you reported.

—EDWARD F. KING,
officer in charge,
Public Relations and Advertising,
Pagcor, 1330 Roxas Blvd.,
Ermita, Manila

Smart's speedy response

THANK you for promptly endorsing my letter-complaint to Smart.

As soon as Customer Care got a hold of my complaint, they responded immediately. Marlene Rivera addressed my complaint. She personally called me up and asked what the problem was. Three days after she called, three people from the Smart wireless center at Sta. Lucia branch came to our house to solve the problem.

I commend the very impressive personal customer care extended by the dedicated and hardworking employees of Smart.

Thank you for your usual and prompt aid on the matter.

—ANGELA FAY H. BARRAQUIAS,
Antipolo, Rizal

Robbed of our rights and freedoms

LIKE your contributor who wrote about the other side of martial law ("An act of oppression or instrument of freedom?") last Sept. 23, I am also 28 years old. But I refuse to be part of the generation which, according to the writer, "struggles to learn from the morass of public debates on nationhood" by espousing, among others, the fabulous tales spun by the late President Marcos or why he declared martial rule in the country three decades ago.

Martial law did not by any stretch of imagination free the Filipino people to assert their sovereignty. It in fact made a travesty of sovereignty by robbing the people of their very rights and freedoms. Marcos, with US blessings, seized executive, legislative and judicial authority to keep himself in power. He padlocked Congress, clamped down on media, dissolved all legal political parties, engineered his own Constitution and effected the mass arrest of all his critics and opponents. Chiefly through the notorious Philippine Constabulary, thousands of civilians were killed, arrested, detained, tortured, abducted or got lost. By the end of Marcos' rule of terror, 160,000 had been killed, 100,000 injured in AFP operations, over 6 million displaced, 2.5 million permanently lost their homes and 70,000 arbitrarily detained for at least one year.

Not one of the perpetrators of these atrocities from the military and police was ever haled to court and punished. The AFP as the main instrument for maintaining the dictatorship, took the lion's share in the national budget, and this continues to this day.

The United States heavily benefited from this, following its impending and humiliating defeat in the Vietnam war. It needed a permanent presence in Southeast Asia which Marcos gladly provided by allowing continued US use of military bases on Philippine soil. Marcos capitalized on a Red scare to suppress rebellion in the countryside and the Moro people's struggle for self determination. In turn, US bilateral assistance came in the form of loans which incurred for the country a $28-billion foreign debt when the regime ended.

Ten years after the US District Court gave a final verdict and found the Marcos family guilty of human rights violations, indemnification for the 9,539 victims remains a problem. The amount, now estimated at $2.5 billion, didn't reach the hands of the victims and their families as past and present Philippine governments opted to sit on the matter, with some even entering into compromise agreements with the Marcoses. The Marcos loot, estimated at $10 billion, remains stashed away in various secret accounts overseas.

The lesson of the past tells us that authoritarianism in all forms must be resisted. The Filipino people must never allow their leaders and foreign interests to bring this country back to those dark years.

—AMY V. PADILLA,
28 Magiting St.,
Teachers' Village, Quezon City

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

This terror can be defeated

COMMENTARY

Art Villasanta

IT is a truism of war that it is the pursuit—and not the battle—that annihilates an enemy's army. While a battle may shatter an army's capability to fight, it is only relentless pursuit that prevents a defeated army from resurrecting and regaining the strength to kill again another day.

Nazi Germany's formidable Afrika Korps, despite a huge defeat at El Alamein, Egypt, in October 1942, escaped a clumsy pursuit by the British Eighth Army to withdraw over a thousand miles. It fought on until the final surrender of the Axis armies in Tunisia seven months later. But not before inflicting embarrassing defeats on the numerically superior Allies, including a severe thrashing of the Americans at the Kasserine Pass. A more resolute pursuit of the Afrika Korps after El Alamein (where the Germans had only 2,000 men and 30 panzers) would have ended the North African campaign in 1942.

What has this to do with today's multinational campaign against terrorism?

If we consider the fight against international terrorism as a worldwide war, which is Washington's view, then the pursuit of the grievously wounded but not annihilated al-Qaida into a foreign host country like Saddam Hussein's Iraq makes sound military sense. To give al-Qaida breathing room to recoup its losses, regain its senses and recover its strength is to ensure its capability to destroy again.

While al-Qaida and those who hold fast to its ideology are in no way an "army" in the traditional meaning of the word, they can, in today's mobile environment, inflict casualties and massive damage that armies of the past could have not accomplished without a declaration of war. The mass murders in New York and Washington, D.C. drove home this point all too savagely.

Armies of terrorism

The "armies of terrorism" need not consist of thousands of fighting men sustained by national economies geared for war. These armies only require unwavering commitment to a goal, infinite patience and modest weaponry to advance their goals. And as long as they have soldiers who are willing to die and the means to do battle, they will march against their enemies however long this takes.

I do not doubt their zeal. Since death will not deter them from their goals, the only viable method of weakening them consistently is to attack what the military calls their "communications."

The "communications" of a field army consists of its vulnerable lines of supply and reinforcement; its under-defended rear areas, the roads and bridges it relies on for sustenance. For a terrorist army like al-Qaida, however, "communications" refers to the funds that sustain it, persons that supply it with arms and governments that give it shelter.

At present, the communications necessary for al-Qaida's recovery apparently exist in Saddam's Iraq. This reality, plus Saddam's implacable hatred for the United States and Israel, mean that al-Qaida may rise again if left undisturbed.

By gravitating toward terrorism's sun, Saddam, al-Qaida presents its foes with a clear target worth attacking. For the United States, the enemy is in Saddam's Iraq. And their enemy also is Saddam.

The prospect of crushing two adversaries simultaneously is a powerful temptation. It probably explains Washington's eagerness to fight better than the belief that Saddam possesses weapons of mass destruction and must therefore be preempted.

On military grounds, the United States and its allies should pursue al-Qaida and its allies to continue their destruction. But there will be an economic price to pay for a war against Iraq. The hard choice facing Washington is whether the prize they seek is worth the risk of damaging the mending global economy.

Certainly, the Arab world will not lend material support to Saddam, whom they treat as a pariah. They have nothing to gain by backing a loser, even if he happens to be kindred. That should be good news for the rest of the world.

A victory over al-Qaida is possible because it is likely to fight for Saddam as it did for the Taliban. Saddam, like Mullah Omar, will also urge al-Qaida to fight in his defense as repayment for his munificence.

Al-Qaida is on its last legs. To keep running away from the Americans, as it has done since October of 2001, is to accept the shameful mark of cowardice. That mark will be more than al-Qaida can bear, its men being proud Muslim warriors unafraid of death and leaders of the holy war. They will prefer death to further dishonor and hope that their martyrdom in hopeless battle against the world's most powerful nation will inspire the young and yet unborn to finish their struggle.

And what better place for this martyrdom against the New Crusaders than in Iraq, the kingdom of the self-styled new Saladin?

The final defeat of al-Qaida and Saddam should be a deadly blow against terrorism's armies. There is a chance that al-Qaida's "big ticket terrorism" might perish together with Saddam. But it could be replaced by a mutated form of terrorism more resistant to future attacks, much like disease-causing bacteria that mutate to baffle antibiotics and ensure their survival.

Still the final defeat of al-Qaida will certainly strike lasting fear into the hearts of terrorist armies elsewhere and write finis to a sad chapter in human history.

The second Gulf War

The campaign to put an end to Saddam and al-Qaida will not require the employment of a quarter of a million Allied soldiers or the loss of a tenth of that number to biological and chemical weapons. Iraq today is far weaker than the Iraq that conquered Kuwait in 1990. The Iraqi armed forces, enfeebled by a decade-old economic blockade and encumbered by obsolete military equipment, will at best offer moderate resistance before crumbling.

Saddam's army will suffer more terribly than it did a decade ago since its foes' weapons have leapfrogged ahead in terms of accuracy and deadliness. It has the advantage, however, of preparing the battlefield and it may have lethal surprises.

But it is to be hoped that the long-suffering Iraqi armed forces will turn against Saddam and lead Iraq back into the world community of nations.

Iraq does have chemical and biological weapons but it does not have the means to deliver these accurately and consistently to distant targets. Its outdated Scuds are more vulnerable to newer anti-missile weapons like improved versions of the Patriot missiles. Non-nuclear weapons of mass destruction can only inflict massive casualties against infantry packed in trenches like those of World War I or the Iran-Iraq war.

There will be no trench warfare in any new Gulf war. Dispersed armored and mechanized divisions will fight the major battles in this highly mobile war, and will prove to be elusive targets for nuclear, biological or chemical weapons.

The Iraqi desert is not the jungle of Vietnam. In open, conventional warfare, it is the side that can see and shoot the farthest that will command the battlefield. The United States and its Allies possess these advantages. In 1991, the United Nations forces used them to defeat Saddam's armies in just 100 days.

The 26 nations that sent troops or service personnel to the Persian Gulf lost about 1,000 men and women while inflicting 100,000 casualties on the Iraqis. There is no reason to believe the Allies' bill for the next Gulf War will run into tens of thousands, as some people think.

Sept. 11 has done much to erase the image of an American military rendered impotent by an alleged zero-casualty mentality. The swift and successful campaign in Afghanistan showed American soldiers to be eager to face the enemy, capable of enduring hardship and willing to take losses.

If America's battle casualties were few, this was because of sound planning, good training, firepower, body armor, communications and teamwork—not to any distaste of battle. The good soldier's goal is not to die for his country but to get the other SOB to die for his, as Gen. George Patton wryly observed.

In all probability, a new war in Iraq will follow the pattern set by the United States in Afghanistan, the major difference being that massive intervention by regular US Army units will be required to finish the campaign.

The author has a website on the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea: www.geocities.com/peftok

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US, UK agree on anti-Iraq resolution

WASHINGTON/BAGHDAD—The United States and Britain forged an agreement on the key elements of a tough new UN resolution setting out demands that Iraq disarm, while the Bush administration sought on Thursday to tie Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to the al-Qaida network.

In Baghdad, Iraq's state-run satellite television quoted a government spokesman as saying US warplanes raided the civilian airport in Basra and destroyed its radar system. It was the latest attack by Western jets enforcing so-called no-fly zones over Iraq imposed following the 1991 Gulf War.

The Pentagon said US jets destroyed a military radar at the airport that threatened coalition aircraft.

In Washington, the Bush administration opened its new front in the rhetoric against Iraq, with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld seeking to tie Saddam to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, including training related to chemical weapons.

US congressional leaders also reported progress toward a resolution authorizing military force against Iraq.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said he has dispatched senior State Department official Marc Grossman to Paris and Moscow to explain the highlights of a new UN Security Council resolution, including consequences if Iraq fails to comply.

"We have come into agreement with the United Kingdom on what the elements of a resolution should look like," Powell told the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The US push to win quick UN approval of a resolution has been delayed all week, first because of differences within the administration and then with close ally Britain, which urged Washington to soften some language, diplomats said.

Powell said the United States insisted that the measure find Iraq in violation of previous UN resolutions, specify what it must do to comply and "determine what consequences will flow from Iraq's failure to take action." "This time, unlike any time over the previous 12 years of Iraqi defiance, there must be hard consequences," Powell added.

The United States has accused Iraq of developing chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, and told it to disarm or face the consequences, including possible military force.

Iraq has offered to readmit UN arms inspectors assigned the task of finding Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. The inspectors, authorized following Iraq's defeat in the Gulf War, have been absent since 1998, ahead of US and British bombing raids.

Rumsfeld said senior al-Qaida leaders have been in Baghdad in recent weeks. The United States blames al-Qaida for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that killed about 3,000 people. *Reuters*

CLASS
7PM
ONE WAY

A BICYCLIST pedals through high water on a street near West End Park at Lake Pontchartrain in New Oleans, Sept. 25. About 140,000 homes and businesses in Louisiana and Mississippi had lost power as Tropical Storm Isidore worked its way inland. AP

Isidore hits New Orleans, US Gulf coast

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana—Tropical Storm Isidore Thursday drenched New Orleans and large parts of the US Gulf coast, triggering fears of dangerous floods and tornados.

The storm made landfall on the coast of Louisiana and Mississippi early in the day, lashing the area with torrential rains and strong winds.

But during its crossing of the Gulf of Mexico, it lost much of the punch it had when it slammed Mexico's Yucatan peninsula with hurricane strength winds last week.

Forecasters said it would continue losing steam as it moved inland.

At 1500 GMT (11:30 p.m. in Manila), the center of the storm was located about 100 km north-northeast of New Orleans, Louisiana.

A low-lying city surrounded by swamps, New Orleans is prone to flooding.

Usually bustling and famed for its nightlife, New Orleans had imposed an overnight curfew in anticipation of the storm. Airlines canceled many flights to and from the area, where about 30 centimeters (one foot) of rain was reported Thursday.

Many schools were shut down, coastal areas were evacuated and the National Guard was on alert in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Forecasters at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) feared the heavy rainfall "could cause life-threatening floods." The storm could also spawn tornadoes, they said.

At 1500 GMT, the storm packed maximum sustained winds of 96 kilometers per hour and was expected to weaken as it moved over land, according to the NHC.

Isidore remained a large storm, with winds extending outward up to 552 km, and continued to drench parts of southern Mexico.

Parts of Cuba and Mexico were already pounded by heavy rains and powerful winds when Isidore slammed the far-western part of the Caribbean island and the Yucatan Peninsula last week, before heading out to sea again.

The weather system lost some of its steam as it made landfall Sunday near Mexico's colonial city of Merida.

Four people were killed when Isidore hit Yucatan, and seven fishermen were not accounted for. *AFP*

Black flags raised for murdered Christian workers in Karachi

KARACHI—Black flags fluttered in Pakistan's largest city Friday as relatives prepared to bury victims of a massacre of Christian charity workers.

Police continued questioning one of two survivors of the attack, in which gunmen shot eight workers in the head at point blank range after tying them to chairs in their office Wednesday, killing seven.

The remaining gunshot victim is still in a serious condition in the hospital, while police have complained the other survivor, an office helper who was beaten by the attackers, keeps changing his story.

Christians protested against the slayings for a third consecutive day in Karachi. Police detained a human rights activist who said he was trying to organize a protest.

Emotions are running high among the minority community after the fifth attack against Christians in Pakistan since this Islamic republic backed the US-led campaign against terror.

Church leaders have said Christians are bearing the brunt of attacks by Islamic militants taking revenge for the ousting of the Taliban in neighboring Afghanistan and for the crackdown on local Islamic militants.

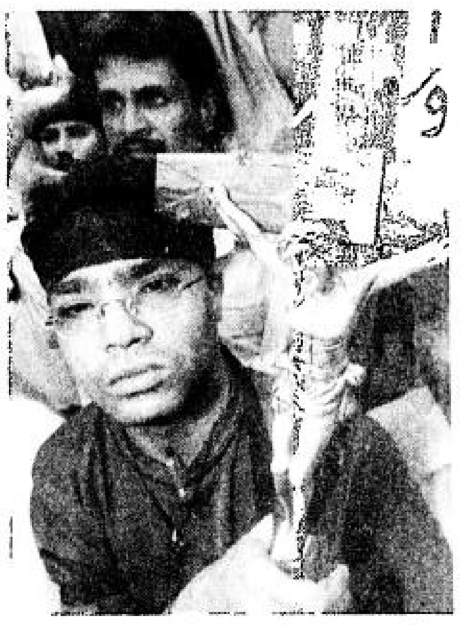
Police say they are keeping an open mind about militant involvement.

"We have not yet got any leads that can lead us to suspect the killers had any possible relation to any militant organization," said Sindh provincial police chief Syed Kamal Shah late Thursday.

"We are investigating in a broader field to check every aspect and possibility connected to this massacre."

Schools, charities and other Christian institutions remained closed on Friday, the second day of a three-day mourning period announced by churches.

Flags were hoisted on churches, schools and other institutions to mark a "black day" declared by rights groups, non-governmental organizations and three political parties.



A PAKISTANI Christian holds a crucifix during a rally against religious violence in Karachi, Sept. 27. REUTERS

One victim of the attack on the offices of the Institute for Peace and Justice, a church-backed charity working for the oppressed in this teeming port city of 14 million, was buried Wednesday night.

The funeral of the six others was due to be held later Friday.

Karachi's Protestant Bishop Sadiq Daniel said earlier a collective funeral had originally been scheduled for Sunday. "But now relatives of some deceased have desired to conclude the rituals at the earliest."

Christians gathered outside the Karachi Press Club at noon Friday for a third day running to protest against "religious terrorism."

Wednesday's attack brings to 38 the number of people who have been killed since last October in anti-Christian attacks.

Police say at least two men armed with pistols entered the downtown office of the charity and bound and gagged staff members. *AFP*

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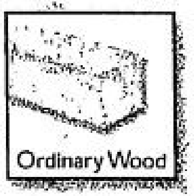
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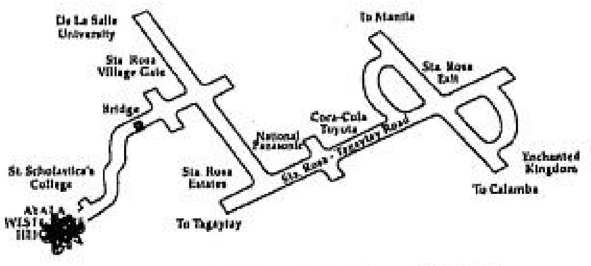
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Israel attempts hit on Hamas bombmaker, fails

JERUSALEM—Israel admitted Friday that a wanted leader of the Hamas military wing survived a Gaza raid the previous day, even as the army pressed on with its crackdown on the radical Islamist group, killing one of its West Bank militants.

The focus of Israel's military operations shifted to the Gaza Strip as an adviser to Arafat Yasser predicted Prime Minister Ariel Sharon would give up his demand for the surrender of wanted men besieged with the Palestinian leader in his West Bank office.

Mohammad Deif, a top bombmaker for the Ezzedin al-Qassam Brigades, was only moderately wounded in Thursday's helicopter strike on a car in Gaza City which left another two Palestinians dead, an Israeli cabinet minister said.

"The information I have been getting from our services shows he has been injured but that his life is not in danger," said Sports Minister Matan Vilnai, who is a member of Israel's security cabinet.

Confusion had followed the raid, which left another two Hamas militants dead and injured 25 Palestinians, including 10 children, after the Israeli security services said they were "99 percent sure" Deif was dead, a claim Hamas had immediately denied.

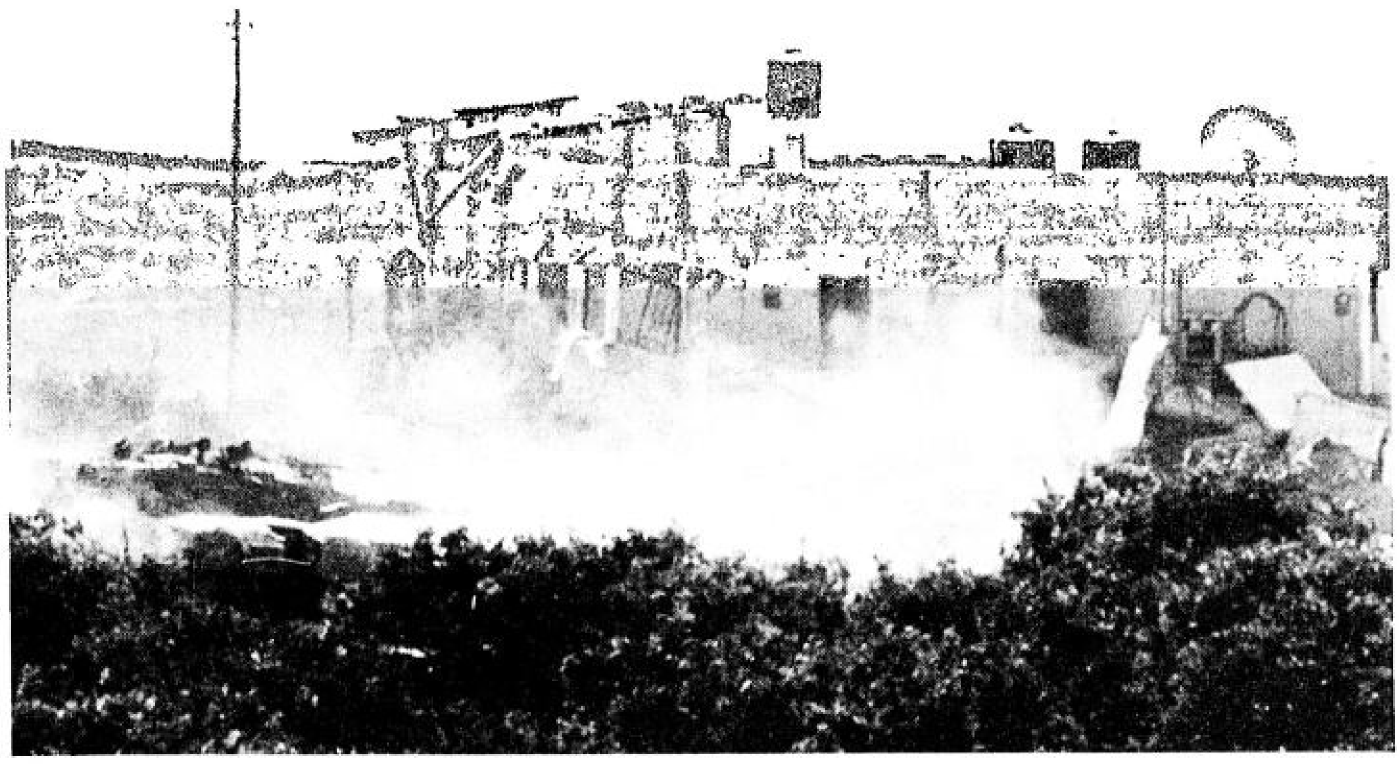
Deif, 36, is the most high-profile Hamas militant on Israel's wanted list. A disciple of Yahya Ayash—the bombmaker nicknamed "The Engineer" who was killed in a famous 1995 assassination—Deif took over from Salah Shehade, whom Israel slayed in July.

Vilnai implied the army could have killed Deif had it used the same methods which killed Shehade. "Means which would undoubtedly have killed him, together with dozens of other people, could have been used," he said.

The one-ton bomb dropped by an F-16 which killed Shehade, his bodyguard and another 15 civilians, drew a barrage of international criticism and sparked a new wave of retaliatory suicide attacks.

The raid—which was condemned by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan—was only the latest of a string of military operations in Gaza, amid Palestinian fears that Israel was preparing to invade the overpopulated Strip and re-occupy it as it has nearly all of the West Bank since June.

Some 30 armored vehicles raided an autonomous area in the central Gaza Strip overnight, sparking clashes in which two Palestinians were wounded, Palestinian medical sources said. *AFP*



AN ISRAELI tank opens fire at Nasser Za'anin's house in Beit Hanoun in northern of Gaza Strip, Sept. 26. Israeli tanks and bulldozers entered the edge of Beit Hanoun, destroyed a house and farms. AP

US gave classified papers to terror suspect by mistake

WASHINGTON—The US government gave 48 classified documents to accused Sept. 11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui by mistake in what the judge called a grave security breach, according to court records released on Thursday.

The classified documents—FBI summaries of interviews—then had to be retrieved during several days of searches of Moussaoui's jail cell in Alexandria, Virginia, where he is being held in solitary confinement awaiting trial.

The classified documents were given to Moussaoui, the only person charged in the United States for the hijacked plane attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, by mistake over the past few months as part of the evidence turned over to him by federal government prosecutors.

Moussaoui, who is acting as his own lawyer, is not allowed to see classified documents. A Justice Department official said the government was "quite confident" that Moussaoui never read the documents, which were not stamped "classified."

US District Judge Leonie Brinkema cited the gravity of the security breach in ordering the documents to be retrieved.

The judge said she reviewed two of the documents at issue.

"We find that significant national security interests of the United States could be compromised if the defendant were to retain copies of this classified information," she said in her order.

As soon as the government learned of its mistake, it retrieved all of the documents and marked them classified, the Justice Department official said.

"We are quite confident that Moussaoui never saw any of the materials of concern," he said, but added that Attorney General John Ashcroft had asked the FBI to conduct a damage assessment.

The official said the assessment would cover how the mistake had happened and what steps must be taken to make sure it does not occur again.

At least two of the documents were released to Moussaoui in June. The searches of his cell took place in late August and early Sept., according to the court records.

Moussaoui filed a request with the judge to "Expulse (sic) the United States from the Arabian Discovery Cave," seeking an end to the searches by the United States Marshals Service and saying it disrupted his trial preparations.

Brinkema unsealed a series of letters and documents detailing the incident. Moussaoui's standby lawyers charged it had been sealed, at the government's request, to spare it embarrassment over its mistake, rather than protect national security. *Reuters*

2 detained over temple massacre

AHMEDABAD, India—Two people have been detained in connection with this week's temple massacre in the western Indian state of Gujarat, including the driver of a car, police and an official said Friday.

"Two people have been picked up," said Gujarat home secretary K. Nityanandam. "They are reportedly involved in the transportation of the militants. We are ascertaining their role." Police earlier said they had identified and detained the driver of the car who on Tuesday took the two militants to the Akshardham temple in the state capital Gandhinagar, where they gunned down 31 people.

Star television news said the driver had identified the two militants but claimed he did not know who the men were.

The driver claimed he picked up the attackers in his taxi from the Ahmedabad railway station around the time the Howrah Express arrives.

The train originates at Howrah in the eastern coastal city of Calcutta and reaches the western coastal Gujarat state after traversing the entire breadth of India.

Police, who claim the attackers were helped by locals who provided logistical support, were trying to verify his story.

Witnesses have said the two men alighted from a white Ambassador car late Tuesday outside Akshardam temple, changed their clothes and then entered the temple complex, where they proceeded to spray devotees with automatic gunfire.

They were shot dead early Wednesday by crack members of the "Black Cat" commando force. *AFP*

ECOLE NATIONALE DES SOUS-OFFICIERS D'ACTIVE

REBEL fighters patrol the streets of the central Ivorian city of Bouake, one of two towns held by mutineers, Sept. 26. As the evacuation of foreign nationals continued from the occupied town, the Ivorian government declared the two regions "war zones." AFP

Milosevic rejects charges of genocide at UN court

THE HAGUE—Slobodan Milosevic insisted Thursday he had worked for peace in the Balkans as prosecutors opened their genocide case against him in Europe's biggest war crimes trial since World War II.

Prosecutors at the UN court in The Hague said the former Yugoslav president was the leading figure behind the bloodshed as his trial moved on after seven months from Kosovo to deal with the wars in Bosnia and Croatia.

The 61-year-old Serb strongman, facing the most serious charge of genocide, again rejected the accusations and painted himself as a man who worked to stop the violence, which left at least 225,000 people dead.

"I personally invested all my powers in achieving peace," said Milosevic, who was dressed as usual in a dark blue suit with a red tie.

In an uninterrupted two-hour monologue, he threw blame back at western powers, singling out Germany and the United States. Their quick recognition of independence for respectively Croatia and Bosnia after the old Yugoslav federation broke up in the early 1990s fanned nationalist sentiment, he said.

In Croatia, he said, this encouraged the extreme nationalism of what he called the inheritors of the World War II Nazi puppet regime, and in Bosnia, the "expansion of Islamic fundamentalism" under then Muslim president Alija Izetbegovic.

Prosecutors, who wrapped up their case on Kosovo two weeks ago, outlined a catalogue of deportations and killings as they argued Milosevic was the mastermind behind a plan to forge an ethnically pure Greater Serbia. *AFP*

Ivory Coast prepares to strike at rebels as foreigners pull out

ABIDJAN—The Ivory Coast government was preparing Friday to strike at rebels holding the towns of Bouake and Korhogo as France continued to pull out foreigners after last week's attempted coup.

As tensions mounted in the former French colony in west Africa, the United States also advised all its citizens to leave after French soldiers evacuated more than 1,200 foreigners from Bouake in the center of the country near the capital Yamoussoukro.

Ivory Coast sent out an SOS Thursday for a regional force to help it fight the army mutineers and what Defense Minister Moise Lida Kouassi termed "external aggression."

Rebel soldiers seized Bouake and the northern town of Korhogo in a failed coup attempt on Sept. 19, which was quickly put down in the economic capital Abidjan at a cost of 270 dead and 300 wounded, according to an official count.

Speaking on state television, Kouassi called Bouake and Korhogo "war zones" and warned that "in a few hours the armed forces will be called upon to do their duty".

Three Nigerian ground-attack jets were standing by at Abidjan to support the army of Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo.

A "limited number" of US special forces were also at hand, with more poised to intervene from neighboring Ghana to protect US nationals if necessary, US officials said, and a small British contingent was checking whether British troops were needed to protect their nationals.

The US State Department said it had implemented an "authorized departure" scheme under which the families of personnel at its embassy in Abidjan and non-essential diplomats can leave at Washington's expense.

"The Department of State warns US citizens to defer travel to Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) at this time and recommends that Americans in the country depart," it said in a travel warning.

"While the situation in Abidjan and other areas outside the zone of conflict appears calm, we urge Americans to leave the country temporarily while space is still available on outgoing flights," the State Department said.

French army spokesman Colonel Christian Baptiste said a total of 1,200 foreigners, most of them members of the French community and other westerners in the central city of Bouake, had been escorted to the capital Yamoussoukro, 100 kilometers (60 miles) to the south.

The French army was still in Bouake Friday helping to evacuate others wishing to leave.

There are an estimated 20,000 French nationals living in Ivory Coast, the world's largest cocoa producer and a leading producer of coffee and palm oil.

The Ivory Coast government said the bid to topple Gbagbo was mastermined by a "rogue state" in the region which the ruling party newspaper later identified as Burkina Faso.

In the two days following the uprising, the paramilitary gendarmerie burnt the shacks of thousands of immigrants living in Abidjan shantytowns, and Burkina Faso officials said they were concerned for the safety of their nationals, the largest immigrant group in Ivory Coast.

West African leaders decided to hold an emergency summit on the crisis in Abidjan on Sunday.

Adrienne Diop, a spokeswoman for the 15-nation Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), said Gbagbo had asked that it send in the ECOMOG peacekeeping force, which has previously intervened in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea-Bissau. *AFP*

Veiled women spend $1.7B on beauty

DUBAI—Most Gulf women may be covered from head to toe, but behind the veil they are spending a staggering $1.7 billion each year on beauty products.

A stroll through any of the mushrooming and opulent malls in shopping-oriented Dubai is a heady olfactory adventure, as waves of strong, sweet perfumes emanate from the black-clad women drifting by.

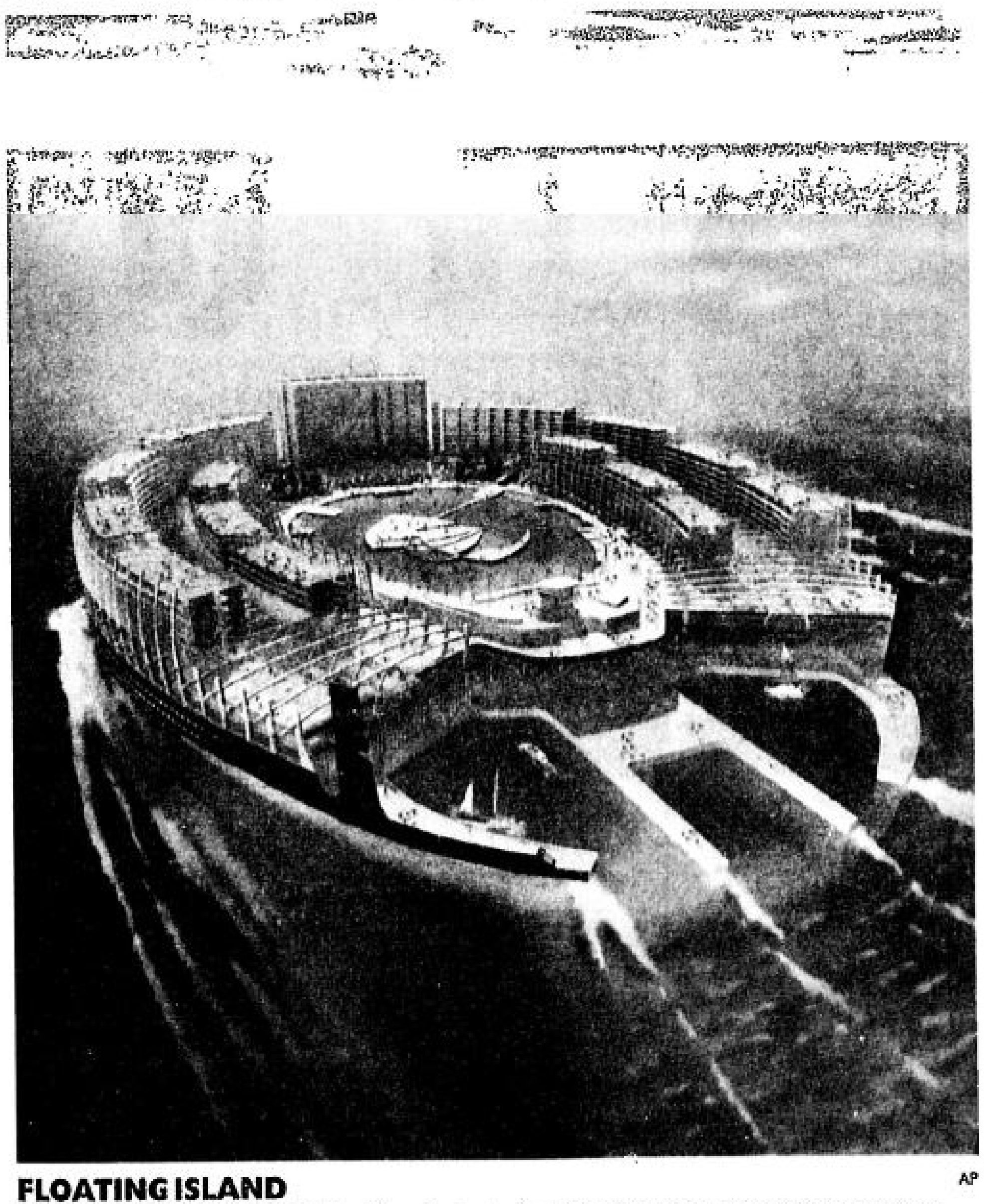
Velvety dark eyes with heavy and elaborate make-up appear startlingly from under long black veils, and long, brightly-colored fingernails shine from beyond full-length sleeves, certain head-turners for any foreign visitor.

"Like nowhere else in the world, Gulf women are very elaborate with the little that they can reveal, with their eyes, their nails and their perfumes," said Giorgio Ventura, owner of Italy's Prestige Cosmetics.

"People also tend to forget that, like all women, they love make-up, they have wrinkles, cellulite," said Ventura.

"And once they remove their veils, they have a whole life among their families and friends."

Ventura was among more than 400 international exhibitors from 26 countries taking part in this week's annual Gulf Beauty 2002 fair for cosmetics, perfumes, personal care products and salon equipment. *AFP*



FLOATING ISLAND

Artist rendition of the "AZ Island" project designed by French architect Jean-Philippe Zoppini and made available Sept.26. The 400-meters long and 300-meters large vessel could host 10,000 people in 4,000 cabins on 15 stories, its own port and facilities to be like a moving city on the sea. No price was available for the project but a model could be presented at the Sea Trade exhibition of Miami in March 2003. AP

Ne Win relatives draw death, closing an era of domination in Burma

RANGOON—Death sentences handed to four relatives of former dictator Ne Win for plotting to overthrow the military regime mark the end of the ageing autocrat's era of domination over Burma, analysts said Friday.

The arrests of the four in March transformed Burma's political landscape by dispelling the popular notion that Ne Win continued to wield significant influence despite standing down in 1988 after leading the country for 26 years.

On Thursday, a special tribunal set up in the grounds of Rangoon's notorious Insein jail delivered the final blow to the dynasty by sending Ne Win's son-in-law, Aye Zaw Win, 54, and three grandsons to the gallows.

However, the four accused appeared nonchalant as the sentence was read out, bolstering speculation that Burma's former "First Family" had cut some kind of deal to spare their lives.

"Not only were they not surprised but they seemed to take it in their stride, even chatting away with each other while the judge reeled out the incriminating testimonies," said one political observer.

Judge Aung Ngwe left the door open to an appeal, saying the Supreme Court would have to confirm the sentences before they could be carried out.

But as he finished speaking, the eldest of the 20-something grandsons, Aye Ne Win, who is a qualified lawyer, called out defiantly "We are not going to appeal." And as the four were being led away from the court, he challenged his government-appointed lawyers and accused them of being lackeys of the junta.

"Since you have been hired by the authorities you may as well do their bidding," he said as military intelligence photographers snapped away.

Few analysts believe the Ne Win relatives were seriously attempting to mount a coup, but suspect the junta took the opportunity to sideline them after their behavior and business interests became increasingly unruly and troublesome.

They also note that the high-profile case has reaped many benefits for the ruling generals, serving as a useful diversionary tactic as well as a public exhibition of their power.

"They were anxious to get public attention away from the myriad of problems facing the nation," one long-time Rangoon analyst said, pointing out that they had effectively killed "three birds with one stone". "Not only did they manage to convince the world that Ne Win no longer wields power over them—in one single stroke they got rid of a perpetual nuisance posed by some of the family members while at the same time sending out a clear warning to doubting members of the military to stay in line—or else."

The move not only signaled the end of the Ne Win era but also strengthened the notion that the regime which has ruled the nation for the last 14 years was consolidating its role and silenced perennial talk of splits in the junta.

Gen. Ne Win ousted a civilian government in a 1962 coup and ruled with an iron grip for 26 years, leading Burma into isolation and economic ruin. He and his daughter have been under house arrest since the latest coup plot emerged.

The current crop of generals took power in September 1988 after Ne Win stood down during pro-democracy demonstrations that were crushed by the military, killing thousands of civilians.

Ne Win was long thought to retain influence behind the scenes.

But now, "the junta has exorcised the ghost of Ne Win," Sann Aung, a Thailand-based Burma dissident said.

He said the junta has found in Ne Win a scapegoat for political, social and economic problems ailing the country.

The reaction Friday to news of the heavy penalties against the family, which was universally detested in Burma thanks to its thuggish and greedy behavior, was predictably mild.

"We had anticipated this as we knew the conspiracy charge would stick but whether these sentences will be carried out or not still remains to be seen," one observer told AFP.

Legal experts say there are three options available that could see them find a way out of their predicament, one of them involving an appeal letter from Aye Zaw Win to Burma's leader, Senior General Than Shwe.

"Aye Zaw Win's appeal letter, which proved damning, may also save them if Senior General Than Shwe who is the de facto head of state decides to use his powers to pardon the convicted criminals," one lawyer said.

The nation's penal code also empowers the home minister to suspend the sentences or remit them "wholly or partially", he said.

"Convicted persons may also appeal for clemency to the head of state to either suspend, remit or quash the sentences using legal channels," he added.

There is also the possibility of pardoning the four in one of the general amnesties declared from time to time to mark auspicious religious occasions. *AFP*

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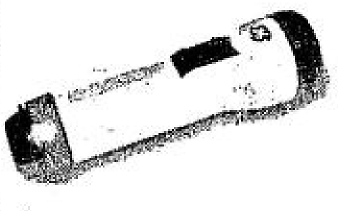

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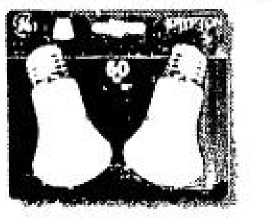

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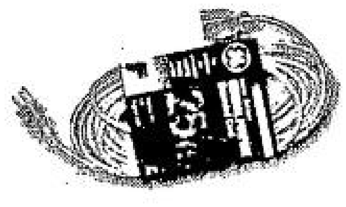

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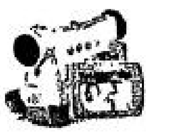

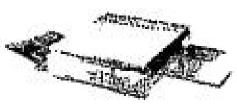

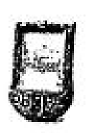

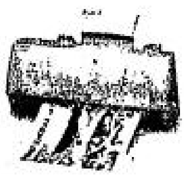

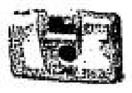

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ROUNDUP

Rebels burn inn

BAGUIO CITY—Communist rebels burned an inn owned by Mayor Clarence Benwaren of Tineg, Abra on suspicion that the inn also served as a military camp. In a statement, Diego Wadagan, spokesperson of the Agustin Begnalen Command of the New People's Army, said they burned two small buildings, three huts and water pumps owned by Benwaren in Barangay Vera, Tineg on Sept. 12 to "punish" the mayor. Wadagan said Benwaren's establishment "actually served as a sanctuary for troops of the Philippine Army when on military patrol and for intelligence agents." Benwaren dismissed the NPA's claims and said the burning of his property was a loss to Tineg residents who may want to use the facilities.
Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Criminal yields

BAGUIO CITY—One of the 10 most wanted criminals in Ilocos Sur surrendered to police on Monday. Jay de la Cruz, who has 12 pending criminal cases at the regional trial court in Cabugao town, surrendered through the help of officials of Barangay Lipit in Cabugao. Various courts in Ilocos Sur have issued warrants for De la Cruz's arrest for murder and homicide cases. The police and the Department of Interior and Local Government have offered P400,000 for De la Cruz's arrest. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

SBMA exec cleared

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—Security officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority on Friday cleared the head of the agency's law enforcement department of involvement in the alleged smuggling of sports utility vehicles (SUVs) in the freeport in August. Senior Supt. Edgardo Tinio, chief of the SBMA intelligence and investigation office, said Carlitos Mallari, SBMA LED chief, was on leave when at least 10 SUVs were taken out of the freeport without proper documents. Tinio said security officer Ronald Santos escorted the vehicles out of the freeport after he told security guards that Mallari had cleared the release of the vehicles. SBMA officials suspended Santos for the offense and would be charged with violating the customs and tariff code. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Angel festival

SAN RAFAEL, Bulacan—Officials here launched the Angel Festival to celebrate the feast of the town's patron saint, San Rafael de Archangel, on Sept. 29. The 10-day festival started on Sept. 20 with the exhibit of a collection of paintings of angels by local artists. Lawyer Emily Isidro-Viceo, chair of the local tourism council, said the event is an effective tool to promote their town and its tourist spots and products. The town is famous for its carabao milk, cheese, salted eggs and native cakes. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Farmers congress

CALAPAN CITY—The Samahang Lakas ng Magsasaka at Mangingisda held its 2nd Provincial Congress at the St. Augustine Spirituality Center. The group has been active in the crusade against Mindex/Crew Mining, which resulted in a 25-year mining moratorium in Mindoro. A resolution against the Management Plan drafted by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Graduate Study Research in Agriculture was passed during the congress saying the organization "did not properly consult the concerned people."
Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Shabu-user nabbed

GUINOBATAN, Albay—Police here hit two birds with one stone after raiding the rented house of a suspected user of a metamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu" on Sunday. Albay police identified the suspected shabu user as Marlon Llena Fernandez from Barangay Travesia. Police searched Fernandez's house and recovered a plastic sachet containing the suspected shabu and other shabu paraphernalia from Fernandez's room. The raiding team also arrested Fernandez's friend, Marlon Orolfo Pabricio, who is renting the adjacent room. Fernandez and Pabricio are wanted for stealing a motorcycle in Barangay San Francisco, Guinobatan, Albay on Aug. 5.
Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Hot pork

TIWI, Albay—Police here confiscated hundreds of kilos of "hot" pork at the St. Jude bus terminal. Albay PNP Director Pedro U. Tango said the 319 kilos of pork were seized from Fausto Boy Sinay, Romeo Clutario, Jose Consulta, and Roger Bo all of Barangay Maynonong. Tango said the suspects were about to transport the meat on board a tricycle when SPO1 Policrinio Crisol chanced upon them. During interrogation, the four revealed that their neighbor Diomedes Cantes was the owner of the pork. Tiwi meat inspector Lito Claudio confirmed that the pork came from illegally slaughtered pigs. The suspects and confiscated pork are now in the custody of the Tiwi PNP.
Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'Double dead' meat

STA. MARIA, Bulacan—Police and officials of the National Meat Inspection Commission seized more than 1,500 kilograms of "double dead" meat believed taken from this town and nearby Pandi last week. Reports said members of the NMIC's "Bantay Karne" task force and policemen blocked four delivery vans in Barangay Bagbaguin here and seized the P200,000 worth of hot meat intended for market stalls and eateries in Divisoria and Sta. Cruz, Manila and Quezon City. Arrested were Gerardo Bernardo, Walter Alindogan, Danilo Alfelor and Manolo Doropa, drivers of the delivery vans. They refused to identify the sources of the hot meat, claiming they were only hired to drive the delivery vans. The shipment was later burned in a vacant lot in Barangay Catmon here.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

QUEZON ATTACK

Cop chief slain in NPA raid

LUCENA CITY—A police station chief and his junior officer were killed when an undetermined number of communist rebels raided the town hall of Lopez, Quezon yesterday afternoon.

Supt. Joeslito Conti, police chief of nearby Gumaca town, identified the victims as Supt. Cesar Santander, Lopez police chief, and one SPO4 Santiago.

Conti said policemen and soldiers put up blockades and these led to the arrest of a driver of one of the commandeered vehicles used in the raid.

He identified the driver as one Carlos Cabangon, resident of Catanuan, Quezon.

"The other NPA members were reportedly already spread in the area. Some were even doing their marketing because there were goods being loaded in his van," he said.

He said the NPA used human shields in their getaway.

Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales, Quezon police chief, said several civilians were also wounded in the attack.

A check with Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, Southern Luzon Command chief, said some of the men, who were wearing barong, entered the Lopez town hall at about 4 p.m. A gunfight ensued and the rebels withdrew.

No casualty was reported on the rebel side.

However, Maj. Jose Broso, Solcom spokesperson, said based from several witnesses, several rebels were wounded.

In Camp Aquino, Tarlac City, a New People's Army leader in Central Luzon was arrested Thursday night in a joint operation of the military and police in Angeles City.

Mario Pangilinan, alias Ruel Guerilla, secretary general of the NPA's Central Luzon committee, was presented to Gen. Benjamin Defensor, Armed Forces chief of staff.

Defensor commended the Army and police for Pangilinan's arrest.

"The military is winning in the campaign against the NPA," he said. "The NPA ideology is fossilized and its ideas are long forgotten. The NPA is a spent force and the government should now concentrate on the root cause of insurgency which is poverty." *Delfin Mallari, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk with a report from Martin Marfil*

EDWIN BACASMAS

PHILIPPINE GROWN
A farm worker beams with pride at his harvest of pineapple in a multinational plantation in Polomolok, South Cotabato.

DPWH sues contractor who cried foul

BACOLOD CITY—An official of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has filed a complaint against the president of the Contractors Association of Negros Occidental for allegedly falsifying the signatures on documents required to bag P82 million worth of government projects.

Emilio Palac, acting chief of the fourth Negros Occidental engineering district, filed his complaint against Bernabe Gilbor before the Department of Trade and Industry Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines.

Palac also sought the revocation of the license issued to Supreme ABF Construction and Construction Supply Co., owned by Gilbor for violating Republic Act 4566.

Gilbor was accused of falsifying the signatures on the required documents needed for the bidding of two road projects, funded by the World Bank (WB).

His firm was eventually awarded the contracts during the public bidding on Sept. 14, 2001. These are the P44 million road project connecting San Enrique town to Pontevedra town in Negros Occidental and the P38 million Makar-Kiamba road project in General Santos City.

"If there was anything wrong with my firm and the project, the government would have stopped it," said Gilbor.

Yet, he added, the construction work on the road project continued.

Gilbor, however, said he might be forced to stop the project if the government would not pay him P15 million for work done so far.

In his complaint, Palac said because the projects were WB funded, WB requirements were adopted.

These required the firms to show that their average annual turnover of completed projects in the last five years had reached at least P140 million.

The Supreme ABF submitted documents indicating that it completed P311.3 million worth of reclamation project for Bacolod Real Estate and Development Co. (Bredco); and the concreting of the Bredco Bacolod Port Road worth P172,491,642.

But Simplicio Palanca, president of Bredco, denied he contracted the services of Supreme ABF.

In an affidavit, he said he did not issue certificates of completion for these projects. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Cops in trouble for drug suspect's disappearance

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Police investigators are in hot water over the disappearance of a provincial jail guard arrested during a drug buy-bust operation on a tip provided by Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo.

Supt. Christopher Laxa, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Luzon, confirmed that JO1 Aris Bondoc had been missing a few days after the Sept. 10 operation by CIDG agents.

Bondoc, seen escorting suspected Metro Manila-based drug trader Peter Chua, was arrested at the parking lot of the Robinson Starmills in the City of San Fernando.

Agents seized from Chua's group—which included suspects Mike Ong, Lanie Ibañez and Rommel Magtoto—at least 892.9 grams of shabu valued at P700,000.

The yield was the biggest so far in Pampanga this year, a police report said.

Laxa also confirmed that Bondoc, unlike his four companions, was not immediately charged with possessing illegal drugs.

The four have been in jail since their arrest, an INQUIRER check with the provincial jail warden showed.

Bondoc reportedly escaped while under detention in a safehouse in Angeles City, north of Camp Olivas.

But Laxa denied that CIDG agents had allowed Bondoc to go.

According to reports, he was the main distributor of shabu to inmates of the provincial jail.

Laxa said the CIDG agents recently included Bondoc in the charge after the information submitted to the court was amended.

He denied his men deliberately and did not include Bondoc among the suspects. "It was an honest mistake," he said.

Laxa said the CIDG was waiting for the court to issue an arrest warrant on Bondoc.

Bondoc's parents asked the regional National Bureau of Investigation to help locate their son. He was last seen in Barangay San Agustin in the City of San Fernando riding a taxi, his parents said.

Bondoc's firearm, a cal. 22, was confiscated from a suspected thief in Angeles City Sept. 20. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Gov insists MILF training al-Qaida men in camp

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol agreed that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) had ceased training al-Qaida members in Camp Abubakar after the rebel group's main base fell in 2000.

But Piñol said the training camps could have simply been moved to the Liguasan Marsh Complex where the MILF established a new base and where MILF leader Hashim Salamat has been "hibernating."

Piñol said that after the fall of Abubakar in 2000, local construction stores in Pikit town confirmed that the sale of water-resistant cement and other construction materials went up.

He said that store owners have told him the increase in the sales was attributed to the bulk-buying of people living inside the marsh.

"It is possible that they have also established the new al-Qaida camp there," Piñol said.

But MILF leaders said Piñol's allegation was a recycled story.

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said this recycled story was what the Cable News Network (CNN) used in linking the revolutionary movement to Osama bin Laden.

Jaafar said even the MILF has been cleared of connection with any terrorist organization.

But Piñol said evidence is mounting against the MILF.

He said Bin Laden visited the camp.

"(Even) if it is an old story, that doesn't erase the point that the MILF is the Al-Qaida link in Southeast Asia," Piñol said. *Jeffrey Tupas and Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Filipino seaman dead of West Nile virus buried

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A seafarer, who died after he reportedly contracted West Nile virus, was buried Thursday morning in Cabatuan town, 24 kilometers from here, without a last look from his family and a wake as customary here.

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) said Reinerio Rentoy, 37, was buried at the Catholic Cemetery in Cabatuan, a day after his remains arrived in Iloilo on Wednesday.

"It was rather sad. Rentoy's mother was unconsoled because she cannot even have a last look at her son whom she had not seen for long time," said Dr. Diosdado Amargo Jr., acting quarantine medical officer for the Port of Iloilo.

He said he attended the funeral to make sure that the family followed quarantine procedures.

Amargo was referring to instructions from his office in Manila not to open the coffin and to bury the remains in 24 hours.

Fely Garachico of the Owwa here said Rentoy died on Sept. 17, a day after he was reported to be at Embaba Fever Hospital in Egypt where he was placed under intensive care for West Nile fever.

A report submitted by the New Trans Shipping Agency Co. to the Manila-based PAL Maritime Corp. on Sept. 16 showed that Rentoy was under intensive care for West Nile fever.

Amargo could not confirm if Rentoy indeed died from West Nile virus, saying the document from the Philippine Embassy from Cairo that accompanied the casket did not state the cause of death.

But attached with it was a four-page report in Arabic script, which Amargo said might give a medical picture of Rentoy's case.

Garachico said the National Quarantine Office in Manila sent a fax on Sept. 25, saying that the "alleged cause of death is a new viral disease, which is very infectious in nature."

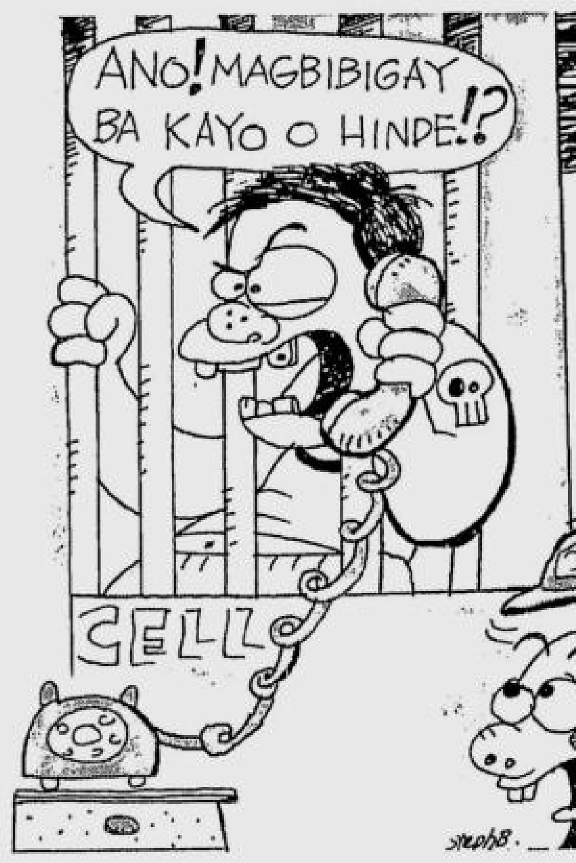
The message added that the "coffin should never be opened and burial should take place in 24 hours."

Amargo said their office in Manila sealed Rentoy's casket as a precaution. "The virus might be West Nile or might be other viruses that are more infectious," he said.

Garachico said they were waiting for the Office of the Muslim Affairs in Manila to send a translation of the four-page document because the document might put to rest questions surrounding the seafarer's death.

According to the information posted by the Center for Disease Control in the United States on its Website, West Nile virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito, and can infect people, horses, many types of birds, and some other animals.

Inmate uses jail's telephone to extort from bus companies


ANO! MAGBIBIGAY BA KAYO O HINDE!?
CELL
steph8.

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The thick walls of the reformatory center here and the iron grills of his cell did not deter an inmate from continuing with his extortion activities, victimizing bus companies operating in the city.

Prison officials discovered that robbery and homicide suspect Diego Buhain, 35, a resident of Barangay Upper Bungaio in this city, has been using the jail's telephone to scare officials of bus companies into giving him money.

Supt. Mamerto Baroro, warden of the city reformatory center, said Buhain could be working with some people in carrying out his extortion racket.

The inmate has been in prison since March 29 and it was not clear how much he was able to make from his activities.

Baroro said Buhain's latest effort was against D'Biel Transport which was pulled off on Sept. 2.

He did not specify how police found out about it but said this prompted him to bar Buhain from having access to the telephone.

"I also barred him from using the telephone or if we allow him to do so, our personnel will watch him to monitor his conversation," Baroro said.

He said they suspected that Buhain had a hand in the explosion inside a Mary May Express Bus inside the busy provincial bus station here on Sept. 18 where a security guard was wounded.

A few minutes after the explosion, the police discovered another bomb inside yet another bus owned by the same firm.

Baroro said Buhain's contacts could have carried out the bombing after the bus company refused to yield to his demand. *Ed General, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

BISHOP'S CRUSADE

'Jueteng'-free Pangasinan urged

DAGUPAN CITY—Even archbishops dream. And the "little dream" of Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz is to have a jueteng-free central Pangasinan.

In a circular letter to be read on Sunday during Mass, Cruz told Catholics to dream with him "as all of us together can make (the dream) a reality."

Cruz wrote the letter because he said Pangasinan "is still under the clutches of greedy jueteng capitalists and avaricious jueteng operators, the unsavory characters (who) continue to fool people, to steal their little money and to enrich themselves."

He claimed a jueteng operator from Manila came to see him last month and gave him a check "of sizable sum" for the church. He said he saw it as an attempt to silence him on his crusade against jueteng.

"I tore the check," said Cruz, who called the jueteng operators as "having no morals and no conscience."

"They will continue to say and do anything to protect and promote their addiction to money making. They continue to be big dangers to our children, our families and our communities," he added.

Cruz's crusade against the illegal numbers game appeared to have gained headway as jueteng operation in Pangasinan was not as rampant as in the past, it was learned.

However, there are still "guerrilla (jueteng) operations" going on in some towns.

Cruz asked priests, nuns and Catholic organizations not to ask or accept donations or contributions of any kind from public officials, for any Church project, "no matter how good or sacred this be."

He also asked Catholics not to approach public officials to have them as baptismal, wedding or burial sponsors "simply for the money they give or the political friendship they extend."

This will free public officials from the burden of financing their so-called "KBL (kasal, binyag, libing)" expenses and other donations, which they finance through jueteng *payola*, Cruz said.

"It is about time we stop the practice of politics by financial patronage or electing public officials because of the money they give before and after the elections," he said.

"This is a sad spectacle in our country, a degrading practice in politics and a big source of graft and corruption in government. Having a jueteng-free central Pangasinan is a small step towards good governance," he said.

Cruz said the mayors and jueteng operators must not justify jueteng by saying it gives jobs to bet collectors.

"There are millions of poor people who earn their living by honest toil and sweat, not by engaging in jueteng. Work and labor must bring dignity to ourselves and our families. Otherwise, in the name of poverty, people may also engage in drug pushing, in prostitution and kidnapping and other crimes. To feed the children with dirty money is both disgusting and shameful," he said in the circular letter. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Raid on cult compound yields assault rifles

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Police and military authorities here on Wednesday seized high-powered firearms from a compound owned by a breakaway faction of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA) in Misamis Oriental.

Also found inside the compound of the Philippine Benevolent Christian Mission (PBCM) in Barangay San Antonio in Jasaan, Misamis Oriental, were four Mercedes Benz limousines and several other cars.

But the raiding teams said they did not touch the cars although they had suspicions that the cars were stolen property.

Chief Inspector Danilo Maligalig, chief of the Traffic Management Group, said the cars were not listed in the search warrant.

Col. Rainier Cruz, commander of the Army's 9th Infantry Battalion, said the arms cache consisted of 21 high-powered firearms including Armalite rifles.

Cruz said the military and the police raided the PBCM Compound, where cult leader Tomas Eugenio, 80, resides after complaints that cult members often fire their guns for no reason.

After securing a warrant from Judge Noli Catli of the Regional Trial Court Branch 25 here, authorities raided the compound.

"We are so glad that at last the raid has been successful and that there was no resistance on their part," Cruz told reporters.

Charlie Eugenio, a son of Tomas and the barangay captain of San Antonio, said the military gave them the firearms during the height of the anti-insurgency campaign in the province.

Like the PBMA, the PBCM was used against the New Peoples' Army (NPA).

Maj. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division here, admitted that the guards securing the compound were Army reservists.

"(But) they were caught using high-powered firearms, wore military uniforms. These are not allowed under the law. They could already be classified as a private Army," Dagudag said.

He also denied that the firearms came from the military.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) were detaining the elder Eugenio pending the filing of charges.

Meanwhile, residents living near the compound asked the police and the military to provide them security.

They said they were afraid that PBCM members would get back at them.

But Charlie said they were not as violent as the PBMA, referring to the June raid on Dinagat Island against parricide suspect and PBMA supreme master Ruben Ecleo Jr. that killed at least 16 cultists.

"We abide by God's commandments and we propagate his love. We could not afford to do anything that is violent," he said. *Grace Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Car driven by priest bumps, kills 2 children

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Two young siblings were killed on Thursday after they were hit by a car driven by a priest while they were crossing the street in Daanbantayan town, Cebu.

The police identified the victims as Gino Cataluna, 8 and sister Marichu, 7, pupils of Malbago Elementary School in Daanbantayan, about 127 kilometers northwest of this city.

Fr. Felix Rossdel Noel, parish priest of Barangay Tapilon also in Daanbantayan, surrendered immediately after he accidentally rammed the children, said SPO4 Reynaldo Garbo, the acting police chief of Daanbantayan.

Garbo, however, said the priest was released at about 9 p.m. on Thursday after the victims' parents agreed to a settlement.

Noel agreed to pay for the hospital and burial expenses of the children. Daanbantayan Mayor Maria Luisa Loot, who also went to the police station, promised to give financial assistance to the victims' family.

Initial police investigation showed that the children were crossing the street toward the gate of their school at about 1:40 p.m. when a Toyota Corolla Altis driven by Noel bumped them.

Garbo said Gino died upon reaching the Daanbantayan District Hospital while Marichu passed away at the Verallo Memorial Hospital in Bogo town.

The siblings, he said, suffered severe injuries in the head and their bodies. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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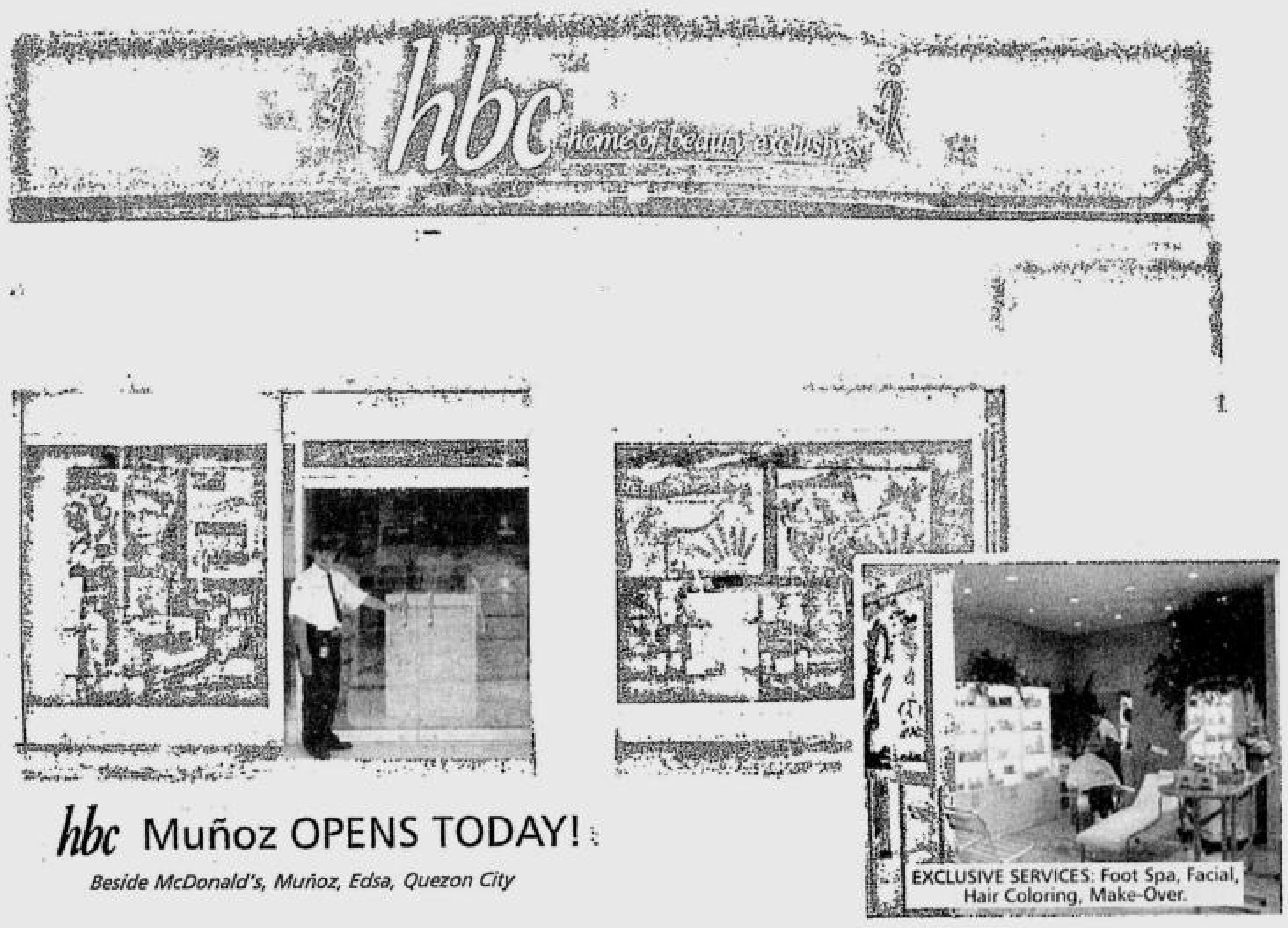

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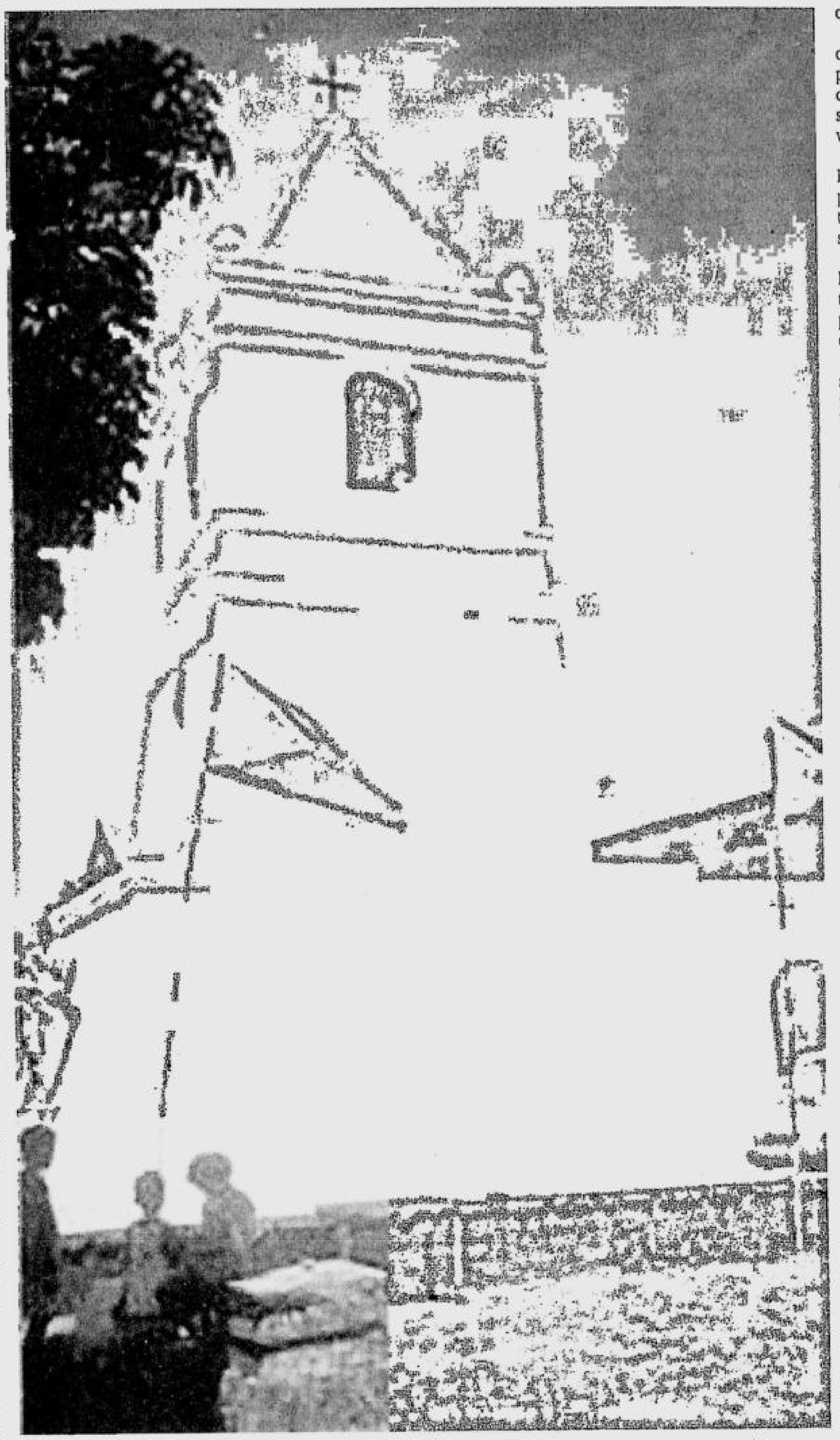
No bells to toll for Balangiga heroes

By Vicente S. Labro
Balangiga, Eastern Samar

ONCE AGAIN, all roads lead to this sleepy coastal town where the natives valiantly fought and almost wiped out a bunch of foreign invaders a year and a century ago today.



THE BELFRY of the Balangiga Church remains empty as town residents await the day the church's bells,taken as a war trophy by the Americans during the Filipino-American war, would be returned. VEN LABRO

This year's celebration of the Balangiga Encounter Day will be highlighted, among others, by a commemorative program and reenactment of the victory of Filipino revolutionaries over soldiers belonging to Company C of the US Army's 9th Infantry Regiment on Sept. 28, 1901.

The 74 American soldiers arrived here on Aug. 11, 1901 and set up a garrison in the town. Local officials led by town mayor Pedro Abayan and municipal police chief Valeriano Abanador met the Americans led by Capt. Thomas Connell and Lt. E. C. Bumpus.

The relationship between the natives and the Americans, albeit initially cordial, turned sour due to alleged forced labor imposed on the natives and the molestation of local women by the American soldiers.

On Sept. 23 that year, the men of Balangiga were rounded up and told to clean up the town, such as the clearing of vegetation, to deter the spread of disease. These men were not allowed to go home at night but were detained in a jam-packed tent.

They could hardly move or sleep lying down in their detention place. This probably broke the proverbial camel's back as their plight reached the leaders of the revolutionary movement in Samar.

Contrary to claims of some Americans that the Filipinos then were barbarians, the revolutionary leaders in Samar were educated brave men.

Gen. Vicente Lukban, their overall leader, was a native of Labo, Camarines Norte who studied at the Ateneo de Manila and later at the College of San Juan de Letran. He was a justice of the peace when he joined the movement. In 1898, President Emilio Aguinaldo assigned him as commanding general of the Filipino Forces in Samar and Leyte.

The local revolutionary leader in Samar's third district that included Balangiga was Maj. Eugenio Daza, a native of Borongan, now Eastern Samar's capital town. Before he joined the movement, Daza was teaching in his own private school in Borongan.

He graduated with honors with a degree in education from the De La Congregacion de la Santissima Virgen de San Luis Gonzaga (Escuela Normal de Maestros), a Jesuit institution in Manila.

Surprise attack

Daza informed the movement about the abuses of the Americans. Revolutionary leaders from the Balangiga town proper and those from the barrios of Lawaan, Giporlos and Quinapondan (which later became towns of Eastern Samar) planned attack on the American garrison for about a week.

They decided that about 500 natives would join the surprise attack, to be grouped into seven. Each group had 70 fighting men and had a specific assignment.

On the eve of the attack, the natives—coming as far as Sitio Naga of Quinapondan in the east and Sitio Bolosao of Lawaan in the west—converged at Sitio Amanlara here for final instructions.

In the evening, men dressed as women went to the Balangiga Church. Some of them carried small coffins with sharp bolos hidden beneath the body of cholera victims.

Early the next day, Sept. 28, the bells in the belfry of the Balangiga Church rang, signaling the attack. The natives, armed with bolos, daggers and spears, rushed into town while the American soldiers were unarmed and having breakfast.

Only three of their guards were armed then with Krag rifles. Some historians said 48 Americans were killed or unaccounted for. Four were unharmed while 22 were wounded. The survivors managed to flee to the nearest American garrison in Basey town, Samar.

Some 28 revolutionaries were killed and 22 others were wounded.

The Americans labeled the incident as a massacre because they were attacked while eating and unarmed. The incident was later known as the Balangiga Massacre.

But Daza later said that it would be unreasonable to expect that they would allow their enemies to prepare for the attack.

Historians considered the battle of Balangiga as the bloodiest chapter of the American Army in the Philippines. It was the worst single defeat of the US Army during the Philippine-American War.

Balangiga: howling wilderness

But many Filipinos believe that the real massacre took place as an aftermath of the Balangiga incident when the Americans retaliated and turned Samar into a howling wilderness.

Some 50,000 persons reportedly died when General Jake Smith ordered his men to kill all Samarenos aged 10 and above. The American soldiers burned houses, shot dead working animals and seized crops. Then they brought along with them the bells of Balangiga when they returned to the United States.

Two of these Bells of Freedom are mounted in Fort Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming. Another bell is reportedly in South Korea.

The Balangiganons and other Samarenos are seeking the bells' return to the belfry of the Balangiga Church as these represent the town's great heritage, the emblem and aspirations of their forefathers for freedom and liberty.

After the capture of Lukban on Feb. 18, 1902, Daza, Abanador and other revolutionaries from Balangiga surrendered. Pedro Duran Sr. represented Balangiga during an inquiry in Catbalogan, Samar with the survivors of Company C.

The Balangiga residents returned to their hometown in the summer of 1902. Abanador remained the town police chief. Daza was elected in 1913 as representative of the third district (eastern) of Samar elected him as their representative to the First Philippine Assembly.

Ironically, the descendants of these revolutionaries fought on the side of the Americans during World War II.

At that time, all able-bodied Balangiganons, male and female, 18 and above, were made to join the local guerrilla forces.

The Japanese occupied the town but the guerrillas continued to operate at the outskirt villages of Balangiga.

One story that Balangiga residents would tell visitors about the World War II is the ambush of a group of Japanese soldiers and their sympathizers in Barangay Cansomangcay, some 3 kilometers away from the town proper.

Vice Mayor Maximo Gamalo said the ambush was perpetrated by members of the Bureau of Constabulary (BC), which was organized by the Japanese puppet government.

He said the local guerrillas threatened the Balangiga-based BCs with harm if they would not fight the real enemy.

All Filipino-owned businesses

There is one thing peculiar about Balangiga, which makes it unique from other towns. All traders here are Filipinos, either Balangiganons or those from other places like Bohol.

No trader of Chinese-descent, or of other nationalities, prospered in Balangiga. People here did not patronize their stores, said Gamalo. He did not explain why.

It is only in Balangiga where Filipinos own the grocery, funeral parlor, printing press, bakery, transportation business, sari-sari stores, among others.

Another thing noticeable in Balangiga is that the window of the church belfry facing the town plaza and municipal hall is without a bell.

Locals explained that this is reserved for at least one of the original bells taken out as war booty by the American soldiers.

It is expected that the calls for the bells' return will be renewed during today's celebration of the 101st Balangiga Encounter Day.

Balangiga Mayor Catalina Camenforte, in her anniversary message, said they commemorate the occasion to honor their forebears who exemplified the willingness to sacrifice, to persevere and unite when confronted with a common cause.

Battle against poverty

As this fifth class municipality celebrates the anniversary of the famous encounter, its leaders of today are also fighting a new war—this time to free the people from the bondage of poverty and social inequity.

Balangiga, which has a total land area of 196.45 square kilometers, has 13 barangays—seven are rural and the remaining six within the town proper. It has a population of about 12,000 with farming and fishing as main sources of livelihood. The town is mainly agricultural, with coconut, rice and commercial crops as the main produce.

The present administration has lined up major projects to help the town. These are the construction of irrigation system, potable water system, river flood control system, and farm-to-market roads and bridges, among others.

There is now the ongoing construction of the P5-million municipal building, funded by Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya, the guest of honor and speaker in last year's Balangiga Encounter Day centennial celebration.

At the town plaza, the construction of the foundation of the P1-million Balangiga monument was being rushed in time for today's celebration. National artist Napoleon Abueva was tasked to do the sculpture.

It is also expected that in today's celebration that the Department of Public Works and Highways will turnover the multi-million-peso Samar South Coastal Road to the local governments concerned.

The road traverses the southern coast of Samar Island—from Basey, Samar up to Balangiga and Guiuan towns in Eastern Samar.

Of course, visitors to this year's Balangiga Encounter are assured that their trip to the historic town would no longer be bumpy like in the past.

Insatiable greed

LUCID INTERVAL

Rowena V. Guanzon

WHEN news about more than 600,000 board feet of of illegally cut natural trees in Don Salvador Benedicto town broke in August, Negros Occidental has not slept since then. Mayor Cynthia dela Cruz pointed her finger at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for not doing its job. DENR Western Visayas director Raoul Geollegue pointed his finger at the mayor for not reporting the illegal logging. When the DENR got hold of the reports, it joined the provincial government's Task Force Jlahas led by Senior Insp. William Senoron and went to the remote town of Don Salvador Benedicto. There they found a sight that made men cry.

Century-old trees were felled, many so old and large that it took three adults to embrace the trees. More than 600,000-board feet of naturally grown trees in Barangay Bagong Silang are gone, covering 71 hectares, valued at P18 million.

The bickering and finger-pointing have so exasperated the public, non-government organizations and the Church that last month they led a caravan to rally in the town, 47 kilometers northwest from Bacolod. Mayor dela Cruz on TV said illegal logging of this magnitude should be a heinous crime punishable with death.

Local governments want full autonomy but illegal logging by local officials is one argument against devolving the functions and resources of the DENR to LGUs. Without the DENR's power of regulation and enforcement, abusive local officials will have a heyday.

Finally, the DENR has filed a criminal case against Barangay Chair Vicente Bacordo for violation of the Revised Forestry Code. Bacordo is a third term chair of Barangay Bagong Silang. He does not control it only with votes, he controls it with the use of fear. Bacordo was publicly known as a bandit before he joined the New People's Army (NPA) and later became barangay chair. He had a pending case for murder and robbery in band, which was archived because he applied for amnesty. People say that the rule in the barangay is that when you need lumber for building a house, you get a clearance from the barangay chair. The kaingeros contribute to the problem, cutting trees for firewood and leaving hectares of cleared, burnt land. One also has to wonder what the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade has to say about this when it is widely known that Don Salvador Benedicto is their area.

Former Mayor Nene dela Cruz, husband of the incumbent mayor, is known to be a former NPA member until Nene cooperated with Roberto S. Benedicto or RSB, who monopolized the marketing of sugar during martial law. RSB installed Nene as the first mayor of the town named after RSB's father, with a land area of 17,056 hectares and rich in natural resources. It is hard to believe that at the very least, the spouses dela Cruz or the former chiefs of police did not know that illegal logging was going on in their small town. Only a powerful politician or someone from the DENR will have the nerve to cut P18 million worth of logs.

Last Wednesday, three witnesses had the courage to execute affidavits, linking Mayor Cynthia and Nene dela Cruz and 17 others to illegal logging worth P1.6 million covering 22.8 hectares. One of them is a woman Aeta leader, Shirley Sombrador.

Negros Occidental has an area of about 800,000 hectares, with only 6 percent left of remaining forests with natural trees. The Northern Negros Forest Reserve has only 1,961 hectares, majority of which are in Don Salvador Benedicto.

Fighting for what is left of our forest is a battle more difficult than the insurgency. It will take at least 50 years for corrals to grow again, and for trees to become a forest. But in an hour, a century old tree can be cut, stripped, butchered, and transported to a furniture shop. Disguised as a table, the tree can no longer be recognized as one that for a hundred years covered our forest, was home to birds and shade for medicinal plants.

If that doesn't make you cry, it will make you scream.

PEA execs' perks behind overprice of DM Blvd.

From page A1

by PEA officials including deputy general manager Manuel Berina Jr. They also said other contractors gave general manager Benjamin Cariño a blue Pajero and chair Ernest Villareal a gray Chevy Venture.

Villareal likewise reportedly got a white Pajero from the Manila-Cavite Tollway Corp., a PEA subsidiary which he also chairs, and a blue Camry from the PEA.

"This is one of the reasons why the project is so expensive," a PEA official said. "Who gets to use the vehicles, and are they in fact used for the project, we really don't know, because these vehicles do not have red (government) plates."

But Villareal told the INQUIRER: "The project vehicles are allowed under our contracts and are priced within government guidelines."

PEA marketing manager Jose Antonio Cuenco said that the perks were the board's prerogative and that the provision of vehicles charged to the project cost had "always been the practice."

"I think this is a moral issue because it comes at a time when the employees are clamoring for back pay and our national leaders are calling for austerity," Cuenco said.

The disgruntled employees reported the perks in an open letter sent to President Macapagal-Arroyo immediately after the INQUIRER reported the overpriced boulevard. The other day, some knowledgeable PEA officials and employees talked about the specifics.

One PEA director has resigned and five others have gone on leave on orders of Ms Macapagal, who ordered an investigation by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

Yesterday, Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong, officer in charge of the PEA, imposed a gag order on its employees in order to "achieve normalcy in our operations."

VILLAREAL

Standard practice

Napoleon Poblador, Jesusito Legaspi's lawyer, confirmed his client's provision of three project vehicles.

Poblador said the vehicles, including fuel costs, were included in Legaspi's contract.

"The vehicles are supposed to be used for the implementation of the project but there's nothing anomalous about this because it is standard (practice) in (such) projects," he said. "Even the public works department has provisions allowing this."

Poblador also said Legaspi had nothing to do with who used the vehicles and how. He said the vehicles were be returned to the PEA at the completion of the project.

Cariño admitted using a Pajero as project vehicle, given to him in January. But he said Thursday that he would leave it at the PEA office as soon as he left.

"Of course (I will return it)," he said. "I don't own it. I just used it in coming here, but I will leave it behind."

Carino returned to the building on Thursday to turn over his office to Theron Lacson, whom the directors named OIC before they went on leave Wednesday night.

PEA director Sulficio Tagud Jr., the whistle-blower in the scam who was the first to voluntarily go on leave, said he did not know what vehicles were issued by the contractors.

But he confirmed that the vehicles contributed to the overprice of P600 million in the 2.3-km portion of the road built by the JDLC.

Tagud said that while it was the contractor who bought the vehicles, the cost was charged to the contract.

He said there was no justification for the brand-new vehicles issued to Villareal and other directors because the boulevard was 80-percent complete when they came in.

Tagud admitted that he, as well as the other directors, had taken the P1-million car plan allowed each of them.

The PEA board authorized the car plan, payable in 10 years, in board resolution No. 3151 last year.

Tagud's point

Malacañang yesterday conceded that Tagud had a point when he blew the whistle on the irregularities.

"That is correct," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said to Tagud's point that his co-directors should have secured prior approval from the Palace for any price escalation or variation order for the JDLC.

Bunye noted that such a requirement was specified in the agreement between the PEA and the Government Service Insurance System, which provided a P1-billion loan for the project.

It was the President herself who approved the loan.

"Under the approval of the loan document, all the variation orders have to be ... scrutinized by the Office of the President, but as you correctly said, not one of these variations or changes in the contract were passed on to Malacanang," Bunye said, adding:

"That is precisely the reason Director Tagud made those allegations, and he saw the pattern where the PEA management tried to go around the requirements."

Bunye said he did not know whether there were pending payments for the JDLC, or if these were suspended because of the controversy.

"(The PEA is) subject to audit, and so at the end of the day, (it has) to account for every peso (it) will be spending," he said.

Bunye said that other PEA officials might also be required to go on leave depending on the review of documents that Datumanong had been ordered to safeguard.

He said the role of the public works secretary was "simply to make sure that the documents are intact, and oversee the daily operations."

"We believe in the integrity of Secretary Datumanong," he added.

Bunye reiterated that Malacañang's approval of the P1-billion GSIS loan to the PEA should not be confused with the "approval of the actual project expense" that was decided later by the PEA board.

"In that particular aspect, the President and even Malacañang did not have a hand," he said.

Charges

Suits are flying thick and fast.

PEA assistant general manager Pelagio Lalap, accused of being Tagud's bagman, filed charges of grave coercion, grave threats and unjust vexation against Villareal, Carino and director Rodolfo Tuazon before the Makati City Prosecutor's Office on Thursday.

The case was assigned to prosecutor Henry Salazar.

Villareal had said that Lalap was instrumental in Tagud's supposed extortion of P2.1 million from the JDLC, and that Lalap was suspended because of another alleged extortion case involving Tagud.

Legaspi filed complaints of graft and grave threats before the Ombudsman against Tagud and Lalap.

Legaspi said the two officials demanded bribes on various occasions from November 2001 to last February to ensure smooth dealings between his firm and the PEA. *With reports from Carlito Pablo, Leila B. Salaverria and Volt Contreras*

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A Mind of Gold: Daf Bajaro

Daf Bajaro comfortably spends quite a lot of time with older kids now. Her learning abilities have become so advanced that she skipped Kindergarten and went straight to Prep.

She has always been a curious and observant child. According to her parents, when Daf was even younger, she would often take notice of signs on the road, and vividly describe the colors, shapes, and sizes. When Daf started school, she would already do her homework with much eagerness and ease that she was awarded Best in Math and Reading in Nursery class. At her tender age of 6, Daf is able to memorize Bible verses. When it comes to having fun, Daf reveals she loves the Power Puff Girls and also likes sending text messages to her friends using her Ate Diding's phone.

"Perhaps the reason why she has become a fast learner is because my wife and I gave Daf much of our time and love. We were very much interested in her early development, and showed concern for what she perceived as important", says Arturo Bajaro, Jr., Daf's tatay. *"We encourage her to eat healthy foods. She loves fruits and drank Progress before going to sleep*", he pursues.

Now that Daf is in first grade, she continues to get very good grades and dreams of becoming a doctor someday. Daf is truly an achiever in whatever activity she pursues. With much love, nurturing and proper nutritional care, Daf is better assured of a bright future ahead.

Accelerated Learning

Medical research has demonstrated that the most rapid period of brain development occurs in the first few years of a child's life. Your child's outstanding ability to retain information, be it as simple as hitting a pot with a spoon, is largely associated with the function of a hundred billion nerve cells, or neurons in his brain. From birth, these neurons immediately form connections or synapses as your child experiences his surroundings. This network of neurons and synapses controls various functions, such as seeing, hearing, and moving. By the age of four, a child's brain has about 1,000 trillion synapses. However, if a child's brain is not properly nurtured, these synapses may not fully develop, impairing his ability to learn and grow. Apart from giving your child the best care and providing him with a nurturing environment, you should also sustain his rapidly developing brain with the best nutrition during this crucial period.

The GoldMind Formulation

The proper balance of nutrients helps your child develop both physically and mentally. Each nutrient has its own specific function, and all nutrients work together. Too much or too little of these may prove to deter your child's development.

That is why it is important that children be given milk that contains the exclusive GoldMind Formulation. It is a breakthrough formula with an appropriately balanced, well-tolerated blend of nucleotides for enhanced immunity; iron for the prevention of anemia; a blend of natural mixed carotenoids for maintenance of healthy cells; and Preformed DHA & AA for visual acuity and brain development.

Preformed DHA & AA

Proper nutritional care for your child's growing brain requires significant amounts of Preformed DHA and AA (Docosahexaenoic Acid & Arachidonic Acid) during his growing up years. These are long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids that help support mental and visual development in children. In recent studies, children who were nurtured with milk rich in Preformed DHA and AA have improved IQ test scores than those who were not given significant amounts of Preformed DHA and AA. Supplementation of milk with Preformed DHA and AA can result in quantifiable improvement of mental development specially during the early childhood years.

Nucleotides

Studies have shown that children who have a significant amount of nucleotides in their system have a more mature immune system that is better equipped to protect itself against infectious diseases. Nucleotides may be found in adult foods such as liver, kidney, seafood and legumes. However, a typical toddler's diet consists of fruits and vegetables which are poor sources of nucleotides. The richest source of nucleotides is breastmilk. It contains 13 known nucleotides. You may also find a growing-up milk supplement that contains 5 important nucleotides. These are *cytidine monophosphate, guanosine monophosphate, inosine monophosphate, uridine monophosphate* and *adenosine monophosphate*. These 5 nucleotides help improve your child's immune system.

Natural Mixed Carotenoids

Carotenoids are the naturally occurring pigments that give fruits and vegetables their bright colors. There are dozens of carotenoids and most of them have antioxidant properties. Combining carotenoids with one another or with other categories of antioxidants such as vitamins increases their antioxidant activity.

Carotenoids protect cells and tissues from the damaging effects of free radicals. Other health benefits of carotenoids include enhancement of immune system function and inhibition of the development of certain types of cancers (Nishino 1998).

A Golden Opportunity

Your commitment to nurture and develop your child into a healthy, happy and bright individual is of great importance. Helping your child advance towards a world of learning and discovery today will help ensure a better and brighter future for him. Help your child achieve optimum mental development from 1 year onwards. Give him growing-up milk that contains Preformed DHA & AA plus all the essential nutrients a child needs.

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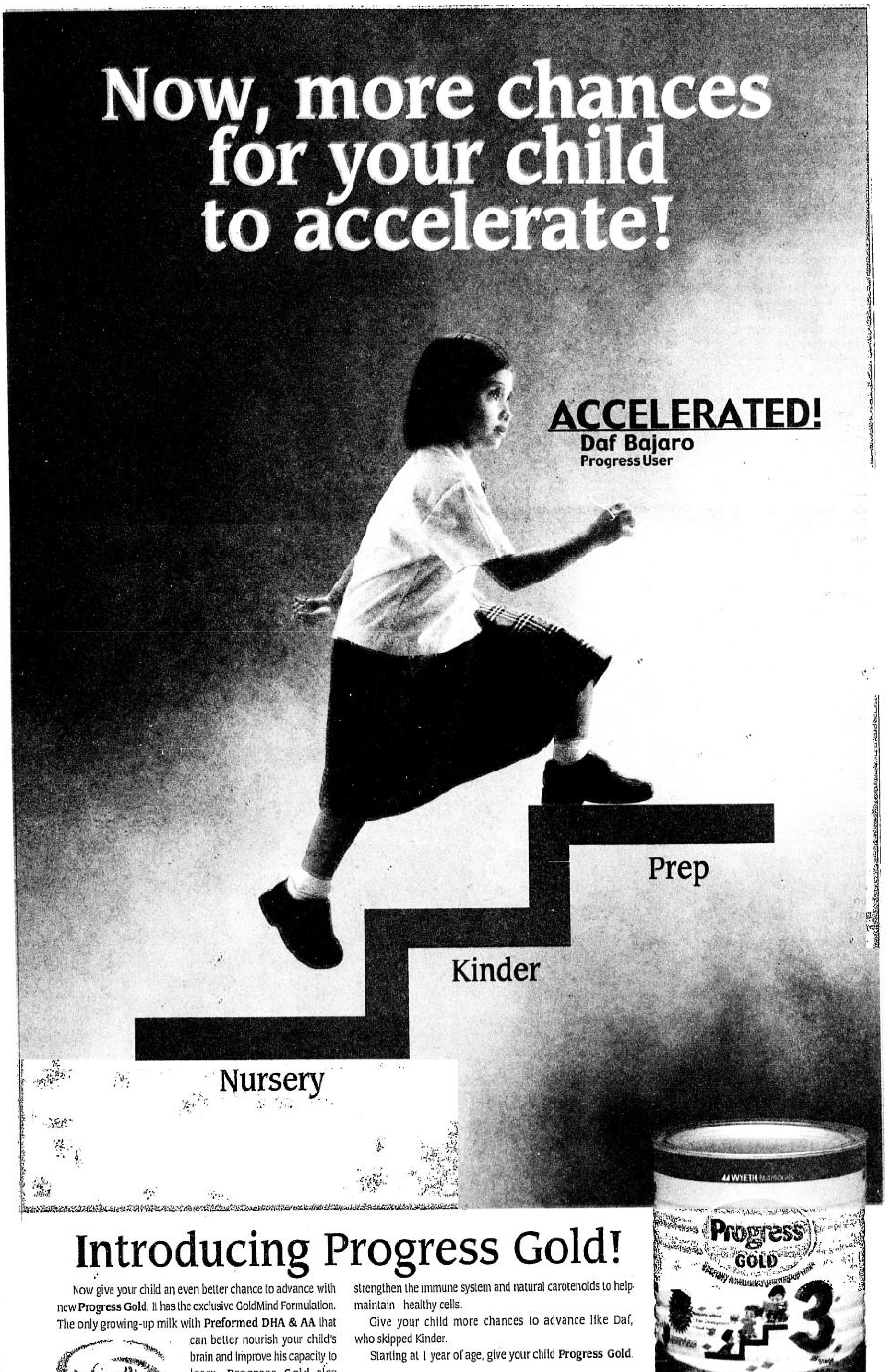

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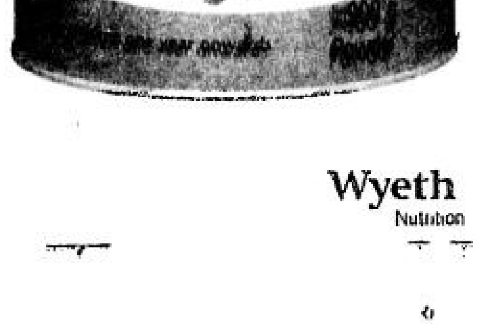

THE GIFT OF GOLD

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Garchitorena: I can always be a cabbie

From page A1

Court of his intention to retire, yesterday started clearing his desk and sorting his personal belongings. He also ordered an office inventory.

But up to what he intended to be his last day in the judiciary, he kept the familiar wit that often made for animated chats with reporters.

Asked what he intended to do after retiring from a legal career of almost 40 years, he said: "I might consider returning to private law practice. But then, as I always told you, the only other job I know is to be a taxi driver since I know the streets of Manila very well."

Garchitorena's supposed last day at the anti-graft court's First Division was a quiet affair anchored on hopes that the Supreme Court, albeit openly unsatisfied with his pace in resolving cases, would allow him to retire six years ahead of the mandatory retirement age of 70 for court officials.

Court sources said "optional retirement" had been dangled to Garchitorena as a face-saving measure for him to avoid stiffer penalties from the tribunal, which gave him until Sept. 30 to do away with a backlog of 43 cases.

In his Sept. 24 letter addressed to Chief Justice Hilario Davide, the 64-year-old Garchitorena said he intended to retire effective at the close of office hours yesterday, the same day reports on the letter came out in the newspapers.

He said in the letter that he could not "reasonably comply" with the Sept. 30 deadline, considering that he still had 22 out of the 43 cases unresolved.

But with the high court yet to act on his letter pending an en banc session scheduled next week, Garchitorena, interviewed at around 3 p.m. yesterday, said he might have to show up at his office on Monday.

It also remained to be seen what shape and tone his farewell ceremony would take. Traditionally, retiring Sandiganbayan justices are given testimonials, complete with elaborate hand-over rites.

Teasing

Well-wishers among the Sandiganbayan employees have been saying fond goodbyes.

"They actually came to tease me, tell jokes," Garchitorena said. "They were neither gloating nor commiserating."

But yes, he may consider returning to law practice.

He conceded, however, that he might have "difficulties starting from scratch again," adding that he last worked with a law firm 17 years ago.

He ruled out entering politics and was also tentative about the idea of resuming teaching law.

Born in Kobe, Japan, Garchitorena had his early schooling in Naga, Camarines Sur, and earned his law degree at the Ateneo de Manila.

He is now on his 16th year at the Sandiganbayan.

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No stopping Roco; FPJ 'sure winner' if he runs

from page A1

Sotto also confirmed reports that the pressure on Poe to run for president was tremendous. He stressed, however, that no one, not even Estrada, was forcing Poe to run. He said opposition leaders believe that Poe would be a sure winner owing to his popularity all over the country.

He also said that unlike other presidential aspirants, Poe does not have big businessmen or politicians in his camp "so he won't owe anyone a debt of gratitude in case he wins."

All out support

"We will give him our all-out support, if he is chosen as the standard bearer of the opposition," Enrile said.

The former senator added that other opposition presidential aspirants are Senators Edgardo Angara, Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan, who all believe that they could defeat Ms Macapagal in 2004.

Poe will win the presidency even if the Macapagal camp would resort to massive cheating, he said.

Enrile stressed that no issue can be raised against the actor except his lack of political experience.

However, this is not a deterrent for the actor to become a good leader since he is a highly respected personality in the movie industry, the former senator said.

In his Philconsa speech, Roco revealed the principles that he stood for—equal opportunity for all and special privileges for none—in an apparent attempt to outline his political platform.

Asked if it was possible to win the presidency if one does not have an extensive party machinery, he said this was "possible and probable."

"I think Cory Aquino proved this. If it happened before, it might happen again," said Roco who chairs the party Aksyon Demokratiko that is currently part of the People Power Coalition. Aquino won the presidency in 1986 on the crest of the People Power revolt against Ferdinand Marcos. Roco ran for the presidency in 1998 and his ragtag campaign landed him a strong third behind Speaker Jose de Venecia and Estrada.

The former education secretary had been evasive about his political plans. But he had been making the rounds of speaking engagements throughout the country, and the latest was in Cebu yesterday where he had been urged to run. He said he had been urged to run. Who is he to refuse? he asked.

"If you say that you want me to serve, and you will seek to implement and make it possible, I told them, I will stand with you," Roco told his audience of mostly lawyers at Philconsa.

'Mr. Future President'

"Those words are measured. It is neither here nor there. But we continue to pray for our daily bread and when the opportunity comes, and you help me, who is the political leader who will refuse?" he said.

"I hope you remember to help me then," said Roco, who was introduced to the audience as "Mr. Future President."

During the open forum, a lawyer expressed his support for a Roco-Loren Legarda teamup in 2004.

The teamup emerged as the top vote-getter in a text survey conducted by a television network, getting 3,450 votes against the 3,200 of the speculative teamup of Ms Macapagal and Bayani Fernando and the 800 votes of Poe and Panfilo Lacson.

"Many people bothered to text my name. I hope that drive multiplies," he said.

Roco also took subtle jabs at President Macapagal's style of governance as he talked of a presidency which should not be ailed by road scams or by photo opportunities.

"We're the only people who can build one kilometer of cemented road for P300 million," he said. "The rule of law should be consistent and predictable and not subject to the vagaries of photo opportunities."

He said first ladies or first gentlemen should not be entitled to special privileges.

Roco is facing investigation for corruption at the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) for allowing a government driver to be the personal driver of his wife and for the printing of 350,000 posters with his picture meant to be pasted on the walls of all classrooms nationwide. The investigation triggered his resignation.

The lawyers asked Roco about his stand on various issues, including the military, population control, the economy, constitutional amendment, graft and corruption, and of course, his plans for 2004.

He said he was against the militarization of the police and for population management.

"I do believe that the Catholic Church will eventually appreciate the benefits of population management."

He said that he didn't want to offend the Catholic Church, "not only because they are voters," but also because all views on population management should be respected.

He also said that he was against amending the Constitution because this would not solve the country's problems.

Janjalani . . .

From page A1

of the recent past," said Janjalani.

The interview was aired during a program hosted by Arlyn dela Cuz, who is known to have close ties with the leader of the al-Qaida-linked group.

"We call on all believers in the oneness of Allah and who fear the day of judgment to do their sacred duty to protect the interest of Islam and to strike at its enemies, both foreign and local, at their persons and at their properties, wherever they may be," added Janjalani, who was apparently reading from a prepared statement.

RMN said it had broadcast only a part of the message because it contained sensitive information.

Janjalani said the Philippine government was willing to sacrifice the lives of Burnham and Yap in the name of the war on terrorism.

He neither confirmed nor denied a New York Times report that he received $300,000 ransom for the Burnhams. The Times, in a Sept. 22 article, said the hostages were not released because they were being held by another Abu Sayyaf group led by its spokesperson, Abu Sabaya. It said Sabaya had asked for his share of the ransom but Janjalani refused.

In the radio interview, Janjalani said he decided to speak out because "our group is being blamed for not keeping our end of a certain bargain."

He claimed the Philippine government wrote off the Burnhams and were willing "to sacrifice them to advance their political and economic interests" and to "justify their so-called war on terrorism."

"If not for the intransigence of the Philippine government, perhaps a negotiated settlement would have resulted in an earlier resolution of the case," he said.

'A disgrace to Islam'

Military officials immediately downplayed Janjalani's call for a jihad, saying no one would follow it. Some even expressed doubts concerning the real identity of the caller.

"He is a disgrace to Islam and he is calling for jihad? Besides, he has been calling for thousands of jihads already and nobody took him seriously," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor said in a statement.

"Nobody takes him seriously, not even his followers because he has no credibility," Defensor added.

Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, chief of the AFP's public information office, said that the Burnham issue was a dead issue.

"We doubt the veracity of the broadcast. Janjalani is not capable (of coming out with such a statement)," Servando told defense reporters.

Military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion dismissed the broadcast as mere propaganda. He reiterated that the government never negotiated for ransom with the Abu Sayyaf.

Purificacion also maintained that the bullets that killed Martin Burnham and Yap came from the Abu Sayyaf as attested to by soldiers on the scene.

Old story

In Zamboanga City, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina said allegations that the military was to blame for the death of Burnham and Yap were an old story.

"There's nothing new with what he said. He has been saying the same thing over and over again," Carolina said.

Carolina said the bandit leader had no right to blame the government for the deaths of Burnham and Yap.

"In the first place, they were the ones who kidnapped them and if he is saying that they were open for a negotiated settlement, how come the hostage-taking problem reached more than a year?" Carolina pointed out.

Carolina said Janjalani's statement reinforced the military's position that the Abu Sayyaf was no more than just a bunch of terrorists. He also downplayed Janjalani's threats, saying the bandit leader was more of a blabbermouth.

"He is not as dangerous as Commander Robot and Radulan (Sahiron)," he said.

Only the two bandit leaders have reportedly maintained an alliance with Janjalani.

"(But) these two leaders could not move and provide support to Janjalani. Their movements are already restricted because we have brought the war right to their lairs. Although (Janjalani) might have some members around him, he can never launch a big offensive in the future," Carolina said. *With reports from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Reuters and AP*

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3rd Prize	One (1)	AP-2480B/BC Package Aircon
4th Prize	One (1)	SR-S20NTC Side-by-Side Refrigerator
5th Prize	One (1)	CT-29M6P Flat TV
6th Prize	One (1)	CT-29K3W Flat TV
7th Prize	One (1)	AS-09A8MB Split-Type Aircon
8th Prize	One (1)	T100 Color TFT LCD Cellphone
9th Prize	One (1)	DVD-8500 DVD Combo Player
10th Prize	One (1)	MAX-VL85 VCD Mini Component
11th Prize	One (1)	WA-90K2S Washing Machine

Monthly Draw
First monthly draw October 27, 2002
Second monthly draw November 24, 2002
Third monthly draw December 22, 2002

1st Prize	One (1)	Isuzu Fuego
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  - *November 24, 2002 draw (November 15, 2002)*
  - *December 22, 2002 draw (December 15, 2002)*
  - *January 26, 2003 draw (January 15, 2003)*
- Mailed entries received at the Samsung Head Office on or before the deadlines for dropping of entries will qualify for the raffle draw for that particular raffle period.
- A participant can win only once per draw. If the name of a winner will be drawn more than once, he/she will receive the prize with the higher value. However, a winner in an earlier draw can still win in the succeeding draws provided he/she submits other entries. Non-winning entries during any of the monthly draws will not be eligible to join the succeeding monthly draws but will automatically be included in the grand draw.
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Pag-asa: Island paradise is Dangerous Ground

From page A1

more than 200 tons of food supply, plants, construction materials, motor boats and fishing equipment to Pag-asa, which for years has been a military outpost.

One of the supplies is a van donated by the Palawan provincial government, the one and only vehicle plying the town's one and only road.

Mission: Noah's ark

The INQUIRER team joined the group in a two-and-a-half day trip aboard the Navy's BRP Laguna (LT 501, World War II vintage landing ship tank), which has contributed to many peacekeeping campaigns and mercy missions for the Armed Forces.

The LST's Capt. Nestor Yapit and head of mission, Capt. Roger Flora, both described the vessel as a "modern-day Noah's ark," citing its human load and its complement of some 200 chickens, 23 pigs, 20 goats, four turkeys and two puppies, among others.

"After the first batch you can expect a second batch, then a third and fourth until we have reached our target population," Mantes said, noting "it is definitely not a place for squatters."

The mayor and the town administrator, Fred Malabayabas, said they wanted to "show the whole world that not only egrets and other sea birds can survive in Kalayaan, which has abundant supply of marine resources. And to develop the municipality into a sustainable fishing community, they should be staying in the area on a regular basis."

The town's first cooperative store run by the municipal government opens today.

Few takers

Mantes disclosed that notwithstanding enticements like P1,500 living allowance and free housing, "we had difficulty convincing fishermen in settling here primarily because of Kalayaan's isolation and the distance to the mainland."

The 32.7 hectares Pag-asa also known as Thitu Island is 579 nautical miles from Manila and 277 nautical miles from the Palawan capital. It is also 43 miles away from the Chinese-occupied Ligaw Island and 24 miles from the Vietnamese-occupied Pugad Island.

Tourist destination

"We're also considering the conversion of the island group into a tourist destination. That is why we're coordinating with the Department of Tourism," said Mantes.

Malabayabas touted Kalayaan's natural wonders as "compelling reasons to visit the area, like its breathtaking beaches minus the swaying palms. Despite its small size there's much for tourists to photograph. It can be a day-drippers delight. It is also perfect for people in need of quiet contemplation. Here, one can clear his mind of the distractions of daily lives."

Rich mineral deposits

He added that the "little paradise" believed to be sitting on rich oil and natural deposits, "could also be a playground to the young and adventurous."

The town has an airstrip, approximately 1,260 meters in length that is suitable only for short takeoff and landing aircraft like the Air Force Islanders and Lumads. On a twin-engine plane, it takes at least two-and-a-half hours to reach Pag-asa from Puerto Princesa.

Travel time by sea craft (at cruising speeds of 8-10 knots) is around 56 hours from the capital city and 27 hours from Ulugan Bay on Palawan's Western Coast. Every 45 days or a scheduled relieving of military personel stationed there, the Navy provides sea transport to Pag-asa and the other eight islets, reefs and shoals occupied by the Philippines.

With regard to distance, the Kalayaan island group, which stretches over 959,160 square nautical miles of the South China Sea is closer to the Philippines and Malaysia than China, Vietnam and Taiwan.

Kalayaan or the Spratlys is the largest of the four archipelagos in the area, the others being Pratas Islands, the Macclesfieldbank and the Paracels in the north.

'Dangerous Ground'

The central part of the Spratlys is referred to as "Dangerous Ground" in the Kalayaan Naval Oceanographic Atlas, a publication of the Philippine Navy's Intelligence Security and Force.

"In nautical charts, the Kalayaan Island Group encompasses almost all of the Dangerous Ground, an oblong area of 52,000 sq. miles which is known to abound with dangers. Its boundaries can be seen at the chart. However, no systematic surveys had been carried out in the area, which is studded with sunken reefs and coral atolls. Squalls frequently arise in the area, reducing visibility temporarily to zero," said the Atlas.

The publication also said that "through the area, vessels must rely heavily on seamen's eyes and should not normally enter the area other than daylight. Radar is of little value.

"Reefs rise abruptly from ocean depths. Hence, soundings give no warnings. Difficulty may also be experienced with celestial observations because of false horizons. In April or May during fair weather, mirages are frequently encountered."

"As the area is incompletely and imperfectly surveyed, vessels are cautioned not to enter the Dangerous Ground other than in an emergency."

"Little advantage can be had in deviating from the recommended routes in the South China Sea to cross in view of the extensive dangers to be encountered. Due to conflicting dates, and accuracy of the partial surveys of the Dangerous Ground, certain reefs and shoals may appear in one chart but not in another regardless of the scale involved," warned the Navy Atlas which also advised "avoidance of the Dangerous Ground to the mariners is the only guarantee of safety."

A check with the US Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook disclosed that the Spratlys had no indigenous inhabitants but there were scattered garrisons occupied by personnel of several claimants' states. It also warned of natural hazards like typhoons and "serious maritime hazards" like reefs and shoals.

Earth's most disputed area

Of the 170 plus features collectively termed as Spratlys, probably the most disputed place on earth, only 36 are known to rise above high tide to form tiny islands including Pag-asa. The other Philippine-held chunks of dry lands, flat sands and rock formations are Likas West York, 25 hectares; Parola Northeastcay, 15 hectares; Kota or Loaita,15 hectares; Lawak or Nanshan, 4.9 hectares; Tatag or Flat, 1.3 hectares; Panata or Lankiamcay, 19.5 hectares.

Six nations—the Philippines, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Brunei—claim parts or all parts of the Spratlys and the surrounding maritime space.

With the exception of Brunei, all the other claimants have a military presence in one or more islands.

Tomas Cloma

The Philippines has been claiming ownership over more than 30 islands, reefs fishing grounds since 1956 when businessman Tomas Cloma, also the founder of the Philippine Maritime Institute, visited the area with the intention of putting up an ice plant and cannery in Ligaw and to exploit guano deposits in the island. It was Cloma who called the island Kalayaan or freedom land.

In 1972, President Ferdinand Marcos issued a decree making Kalayaan a municipality of Palawan despite strong protests from the other claimant states.

The Philippines attempted to occupy Ligaw sometime in the early 1970s but was repulsed by an occupying Taiwanese group. Instead the Philippines put up detachment in neighboring islets.

Navy as partner

Mantes asserted that the putting up of a "civilian population in other parts of Kalayaan is legal. It's part of the mandate of a local government unit."

"Who knows? With civilians having authority over the military here and developing the municipality into a fishing community could be an effective deterrence to our neighbors who are very much interested in this part of the world," the mayor said.

The Navy has assured the Kalayaan municipal government that it could "always rely on us as partners in the settlement program. The BRP Laguna maybe aging but it remains sea-worthy and mission-oriented at all times ready to assist in national development effort."

Aside from Captain Yapit, the ship's other officers include Lt. Junior Grade Romel Marcos, and Ensigns Bienvenido Pelonia Jr., Juvenal Azurin, Dennis Donga, Cesar Pangan, Bernadette Resticio, Antonio Bosch, among others.

At this writing, BRP Laguna officers and crew back up by a team of the Navy's Special Warfare Group (SWAG) were still assisting the settlers in unloading the supplies from the ship, anchored 1.5 nautical miles from the Pag-asa shorelines.

"This used to be a no-man's land where time did not matter much. Now, it is a destination for soldiers with patriotism in their veins and adventure in their hearts," according to Yapit.

Balangiga yearns...

From page A1

groups in the United States decided to elevate the appeal after the US government continued to block efforts to return the bells.

The Diocese of Borongan, on the other hand, is urging Foreign Secretary Blas Ople to work for the return of the bells in time for next year's celebration of the United Nations International Decade for a Culture of Peace.

The diocese has embarked on a separate effort to convince the Cheyenne Diocese that the bells are the property of the Balangiga church and thus could not be taken as spoils of war.

The Balangiga foundation—composed of direct descendants of the men who fought on that fateful morning—hopes the appeal before the United Nations will give the town and the Philippines a better chance of getting back the bells.

Celebration

Residents have been busy preparing for today's celebration. Welcome arches have been set up on the highway leading to the town proper and red, yellow and blue pennants abound.

Sept. 28 is a non-working holiday in Eastern Samar by virtue of Republic Act No. 6692. The pealing of church bells and a concelebrated thanksgiving Mass will usher in today's Balangiga Encounter Day celebration. This will be followed by a civic-military parade.

Highlighting the celebration are the reenactment of the Balangiga encounter and the presentation of a dance-drama, "*Mga Tunog han Linggamay* (Sounds of the Bells)."

Many of the residents are hoping that the bells will be given back to Samar, although a few are resigned to the fact that they will not see the historic bells during their lifetime.

"The bells will never be returned. The Americans have made them souvenirs of war," Roque Balasbas, 93, said in Waray.

His wife, Celia, 89, nodded in agreement.

Asked if he really wanted the bells returned, Roque said he did not care anymore.

Although he was not yet born when the Balangiga encounter occurred, Roque said his elders have told him about it.

"Plants were uprooted, huts were burned and fowls were seized," he said of the aftermath of the Balangiga encounter.

Elden Ricote, 15, a junior high school student, wants the Americans to return them because she wants to "personally see the historic bells."

Her sentiment was shared by a bunch of five boys her age.

Pio Elacion, a 55-year-old teacher, said the bells should be returned because these "rightfully belong to Balangiga."

He added that what must be returned are the original bells, not only one-half of a bell.

Elacion was referring to the "win-win" solution proposed by former President Fidel Ramos that one original bell be halved, with one part going to Balangiga and the other half remaining in the United States.

Not anti-American

Surprisingly, not one of those interviewed by the INQUIRER resented the Americans for holding on to the bells.

Modesto Valdenabro and Florencio Ebanadero, both in their early 80s, said the Americans are "good, educated people" and that they will eventually return the bells.

They recalled that when they were still elementary school pupils, they received toys, paper and pencils from the Americans.

Mayor Catalina Camenforte confirmed that her constituents did not hate the Americans for holding on to the bells.

Like her people, she is also optimistic that eventually the bells will find their way home.

Local and national officials as well as some Catholic Church officials here and in the United States have been trying to retrieve the bells, but to no avail.

Solons vow to block ...

From page A1

Jimenez sought solace in a retreat house in Novaliches yesterday.

On another front, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez made light of an opinion aired Thursday by Fr. Joaquin Bernas, SJ, dean of the Ateneo Law School, disputing the tribunal's ruling.

Perez told reporters that Bernas was only one of the almost 80 law deans in the country. "And while he is respected, especially by this secretary of justice, I do not agree with his opinion. And that is democracy in the school where we came from," Perez said, adding:

"And it must be borne in mind that the one who argued the case is Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez, also a graduate of the Ateneo de Manila."

Perez once taught law at the Ateneo. He also worked with Bernas when the latter was president of the Philippine Association of Law Schools.

Bernas had told reporters that he was in favor of letting the Manila Regional Trial Court decide on whether Jimenez should be put behind bars pending the resolution of his extradition case.

He described the high court's ruling as speculative and overly dependent on Jimenez's being a supposed "flight risk." He also said he found the opinions of the dissenting justices "superior" to the ruling.

In a letter sent to the INQUIRER yesterday, Bernas clarified that he did not speak at a press briefing as reported.

"My office received phone calls from a number of media people asking if I was open to an interview," he said. "Since I had some free time (Thursday) afternoon, I acceded to the request. I did not call them; they called my office."

In that interview with reporters, Bernas also suggested that Jimenez be put in the custody of the House.

He said he was against the justice department's proposal to immediately detain Jimenez even before the lawmaker could avail himself of the 15 days to seek a reconsideration of the ruling.

He pointed out that this would run counter to due process because the ruling was not yet final and executory.

"I would favor (Jimenez) being guaranteed by a responsible person who would make sure he would be available when needed (in the extradition court). He could even stay home. He does not even need to stay somewhere like the Batasan," Bernas said.

Fighting it out

Dilangalen dared Perez and National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco to try to serve the warrant of arrest on Jimenez during the session.

The House and the Senate resume sessions on Monday after a three-week break.

"They cannot fool around with Congress. I tell you, we will fight it out," Dilangalen, a lawyer, said in phone interview. He cannot be arrested. Congress will block his arrest."

Dilangalen said a person could only be denied bail if he/she was facing a criminal case for a heinous crime and when the evidence was strong.

"But extradition is an administrative case and there is no imprisonment in an administrative case," he said.

Paras said Perez's insistence that the warrant could already be served was without basis. "We're asking the secretary to review his law," Paras said.

Zamora, a bar topnotcher, said: "I really don't think (Jimenez) should be denied bail for an offense like this, especially with the session opening on Monday."

Asked why not, he said: "Have you forgotten we have a Constitution? You cannot be arrested for a crime punishable by not less than six years imprisonment, but for an offense that is not criminal, you can be arrested?"

Zamora was referring to congressional immunity from arrest.

"The most reasonable interpretation is that to the extent they don't contradict the Constitution, treaties apply," he added. "But in this case, it's clearly not right to deny bail."

Zamora, who had a falling out with Jimenez during the term of ousted President Joseph Estrada, also said that should the arrest be attempted next week, the House would be forced to vote in favor of protecting Jimenez.

Enforcement

But Perez appeared up to the fight.

"We have a Supreme Court," he said. "The decision of the court is part of the laws of the land, and therefore, even if we don't agree with the decision, even if we feel that our opinion is better, the high court's decision shall prevail. And that is what we are going to enforce."

Bernas, when asked Thursday why Perez would want to immediately arrest Jimenez, said the justice secretary was a "political officer" whose statement on the arrest "could be a mixture of politics and legality."

To this Perez retorted yesterday: "This is my duty as a member of the Cabinet. But this does not mean that (my statements) have political undertones. It must be borne in mind, and it must be emphasized, that this extradition case was not started by this administration. It was started during the time of President Estrada. In fact, the one who filed it was Secretary Serafin Cuevas, my predecessor. This is only one of the cases that I inherited and have to pursue because it is my sworn duty to pursue it.

Not caving in

The DOJ filed on Thursday an ex parte motion asking Manila RTC Branch 42 Judge Guillermo Purganan to issue the standing warrant against Jimenez.

But the court hearing Jimenez's extradition case is not caving in to the pressure.

"The court is inclined not to reissue the warrant or do anything about the case until after the Supreme Court resolves Mr. Jimenez's motion for reconsideration," clerk of court Willie Purisima told reporters. "We will not be pressured by the DOJ or any agency. We will strictly follow the rules of court in resolving the extradition case."

But the NBI's Wycoco said the bureau would consider allowing Jimenez to have some equipment in his cell, if ever he is detained at the jail there.

Wycoco said this should help Jimenez to continue serving his constituents in Manila's sixth district. *With reports from Jerome Aning and Philip C. Tubeza*

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SPORTS

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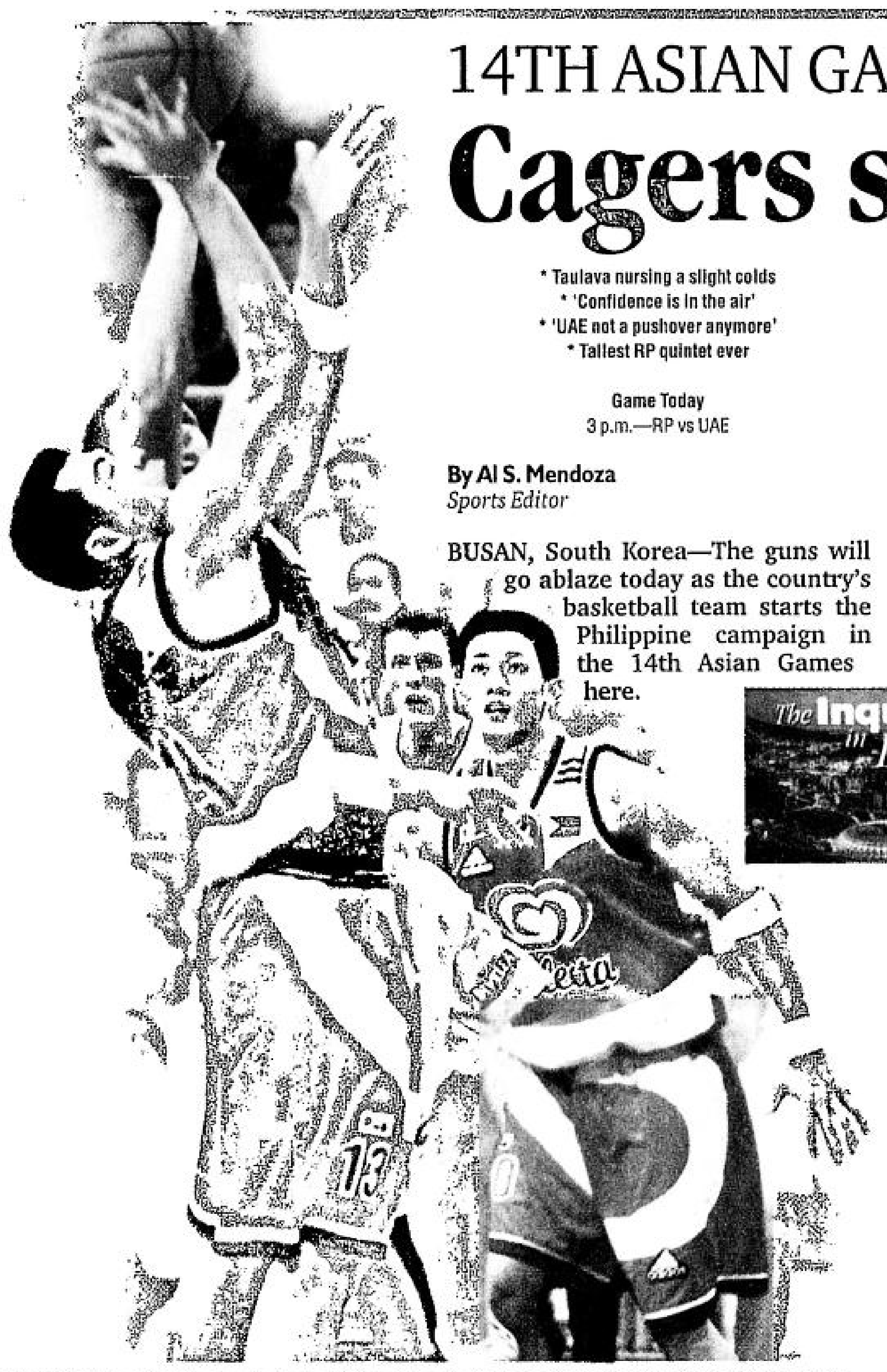
14TH ASIAN GAMES

Cagers start RP campaign

* Taulava nursing a slight colds
* 'Confidence is in the air'
* 'UAE not a pushover anymore'
* Tallest RP quintet ever

Game Today
3 p.m.—RP vs UAE

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor



RUDY Hatfield (left), shown here putting up a shot off a defender during the RP-Melbourne tune-up, and teammate Danny Ildefonso (right) will have their baptism of fire as the nationals start their gold-medal hunt by clashing with the United Arab Emirates today. FILE PHOTO

The Inquirer in Busan

BUSAN, South Korea—The guns will go ablaze today as the country's basketball team starts the Philippine campaign in the 14th Asian Games here.

When the first whistle is blown signaling the start of the game, the country will unleash its tallest basketball team ever with the squad's average height pegged at 6-foot-4 1/2.

Olsen Racela at 5-foot-11 and Noy Castillo at 5-foot-10 are below six feet among the 12 players in the team.

The tallest are Asi Taulava, Andy Seigle and Mick Pennisi--all at 6-foot-9. Their other teammates are Jeffrey Cariaso (6-foot-1), Dennis Espino (6-foot-5), Erik Menk (6-foot-6), Dondon Hontiveros (6-foot-3), Rudy Hatfield (6-foot-5) and Kenneth Duremdes (6-foot-3).

But more than the height factor, the team's skills could augur well in their bid for glory, not to mention the tons of talent oozing in them.

Oddsmakers here made the Filipinos the heavy favorites to beat the United Arab Emirates in the 3 p.m. contest even as Taulava, the RP Team's No. 1 center, is suffering from colds.

"It's just a slight colds," said a team official. "Nothing to worry about."

Filipino cagers used to beat the Emirates by lopsided margins but, like many of the country's Asian neighbors, the Emirates have been improving year after year.

"We beat them easily the last time we met in the 1998 Asian Games," said Allan Caidic, a many-time Asian Gamer and part of that 1998 Asiad quintet to Bangkok.

"But according to recent reports and some scouting by our men, the Emirates are no pushovers."

Caidic, one of Jong Uichico's four assistant coaches (the other three are Eric Altamirano, Binky Favis and Boysie Zamar) said UAE beat Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait in a recent cagefest involving Middle East countries.

"They are not easy pickings anymore, I tell you," Caidic said of UAE.

North Korea will be next on Monday, Sept. 30. The top two teams form their bracket wil advance to the next round in the 12-nation meet that also included Kuwait, Kazahkstan, Qatar, Mongolia, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei and defending champion China.

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino, who is serving for the first time as team manager of the Philippine quintet, said he sees victory for the boys against the UAE today.

"As they always say, the first game is the hardest to win," said Bernardino. "But I'm looking forward to a victory because a win in the first game will dictate the rest of the team's direction."

The 55-year-old PBA Commissioner, who is set to retire his post in December, said the boys are upbeat and raring to go to battle.

"The boys have worked hard and they begin the real battle tomorrow," said Bernardino. "But I can feel it. They are going to beat UAE. Confidence is in the air."

RP SKED

Saturday, Sept. 28
BASKETBALL
3 p.m.—Philippines vs UAE (Preliminary Round)

Sunday, Sept. 29
FENCING
10 a.m.—Rolando Canlas Jr. (men's foil, individual, preliminary); Richard Gomez, Avelino Victorino (men's epee, individual, preliminary)
8 p.m.—Finals of men's foil, individual
8:30 p.m.—Finals of men's epee, individual

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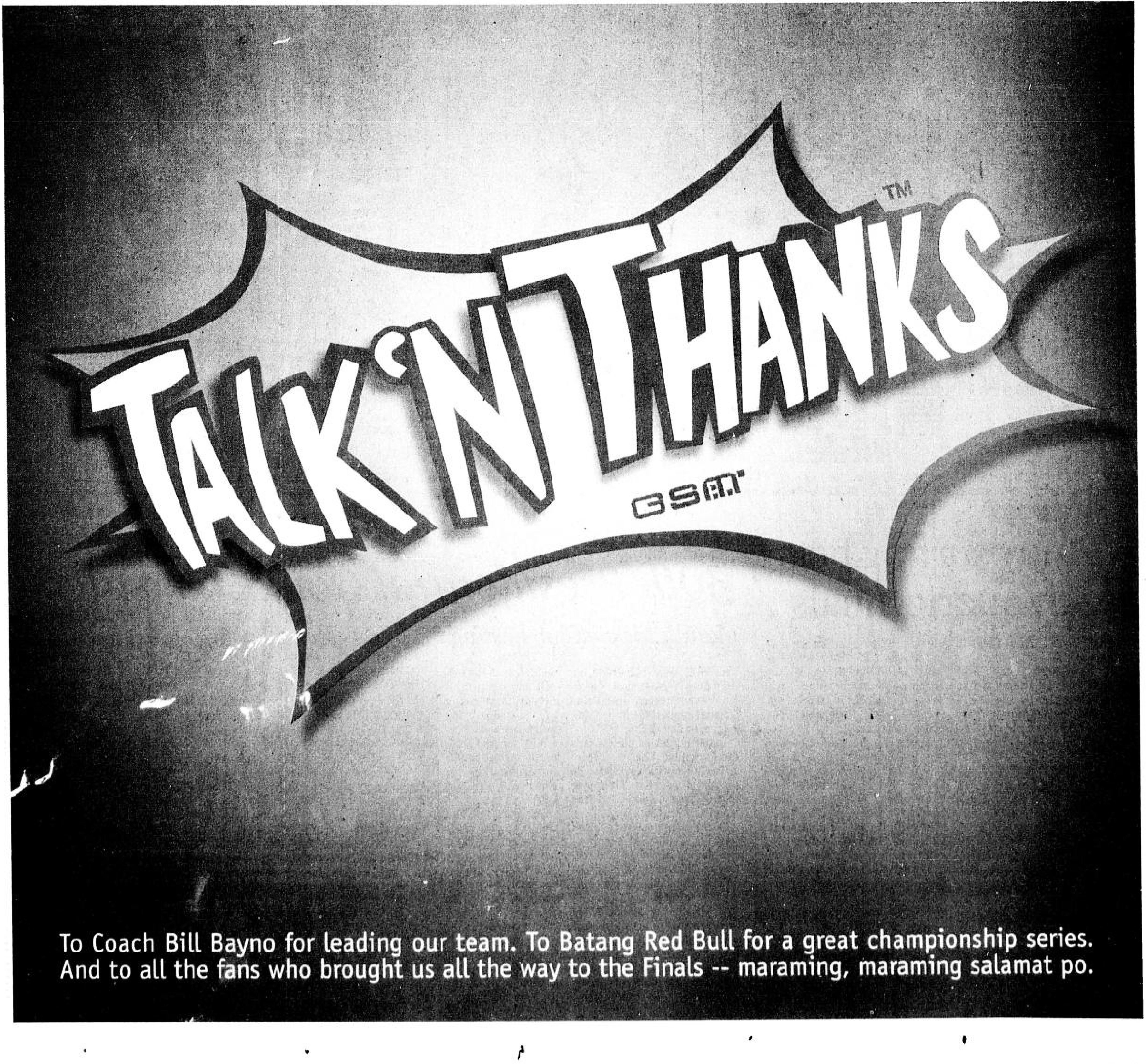

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Gloria gives Dancesport Week major boost

MACAPAGAL

DANCESPORT got a big lift when President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Proclamation 203 declaring Nov. 4-10, 2002 as National Dancesport Week.

The move boosted the Asia Pacific Dancesport Championships which the International Dancesport Federation and Dancesport Council of the Philippines are hosting on Nov. 8-10 at the Philsports Arena.

The sportsminded Chief Executive directed the Department of Tourism, Philippine Sports Commission and other government agencies to "ensure the success of this worthy undertaking by actively supporting the preparation and staging of this international event featuring world-class dancers and licensed international adjucators from 20 countries."

Held under the auspices of PSC chair Eric Buhain and DSCP president Becky Garcia, the blue-ribbon event will be sponsored by the PSC, Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pagcor, Philippine Airlines, Edsa Shangri-la, Philtranco, Dance Exchange, BMW-Philippines, Pagoda Philippines, Carlines Transportation and ABC 5.

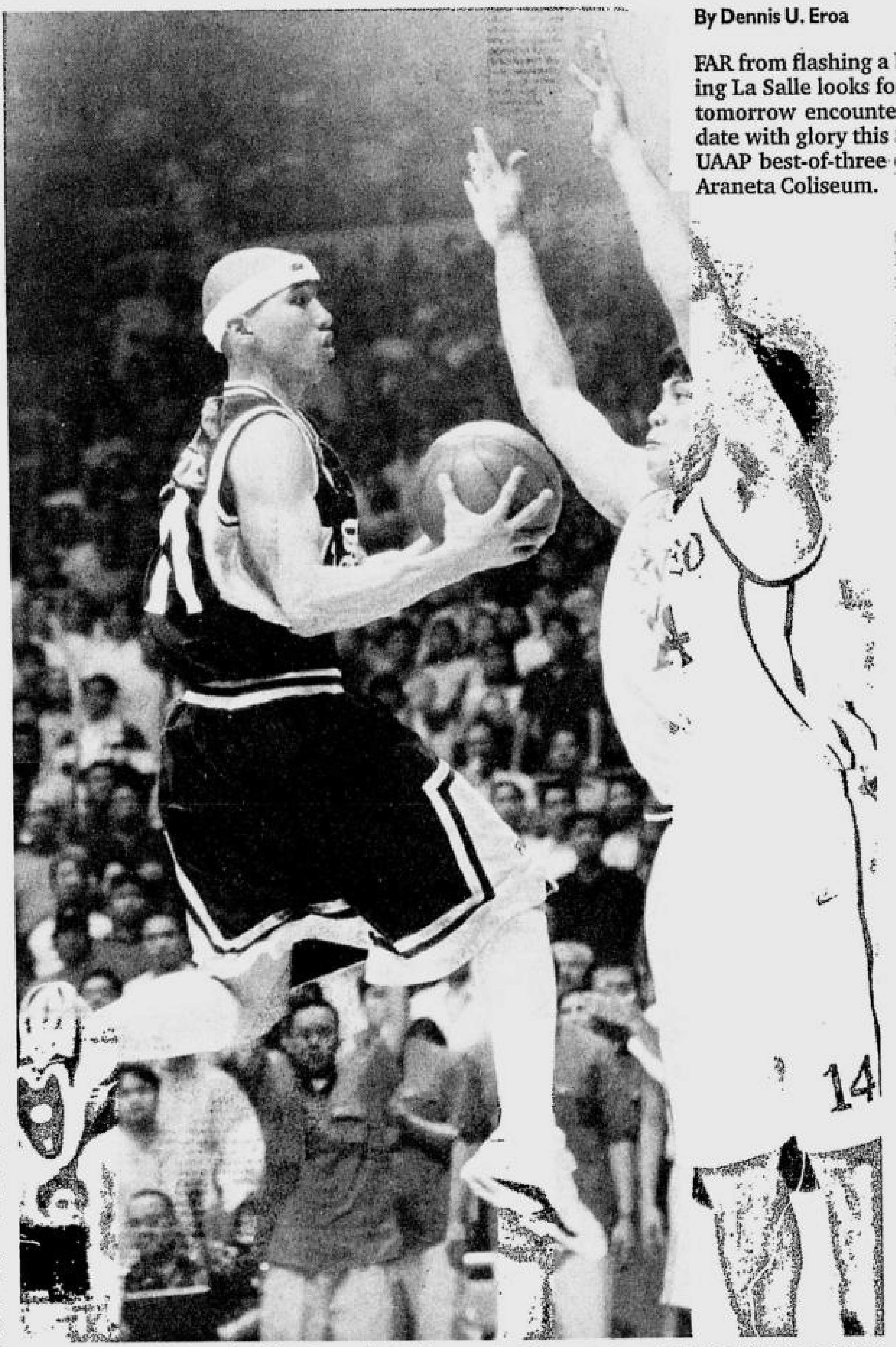
Meanwhile, everything is set for the sixth National Dancesport Championships on Oct. 19 at the Philsports with international licensed adjudicators arriving to conduct workshops and monitor the tournament aside from demonstrating the five Latin dances by four-time undefeated world professional Latin champions Jukka Haapalainen and Sirpa Suutari.

"Dancesport has indeed gone a long, long way," said Garcia, who has been at the helm since 1996 of the only amateur body for dance recognized by the POC. She is assisted by DSCP board members lawyer Noel Laman, chair; Jun Herrera, vice president; lawyer Jo Saliva, secretary general; Gloria Alcala, treasurer; and lawyer Andy Fornier, Marvie Cojuangco Yulo, Prof. Naomi Enriquez, Tonet Lagdameo, Gen. Sonny Yan, Ruby Co, Emma Nieto, Chona Mercado and Joel Ocsena.

Through the years, dancesport has taken enormous strides. Most recently, young dance athletes Renier Mercado and Judith Ann Melencio put the Philippines in the international sports map by winning gold medals in the junior standard and Latin categories of the Japan Superstar Championships in Tokyo. In the 15th Singapore Lion City International Championships, another Filipino youthful pair—John Erolle Melencio and Krystal Tadeo—won first place in the Youth Latin event together with Brian and Karla Ocana (Youth standard) and veterans Brian Carlo and Ena Ledesma (Grade A Latin).

ATENEO AHEAD

La Salle vows to bounce back



LA SALLE'S chief playmaker Mike Cortez (left) drives against Ateneo behemoth Enrico Villanueva (right) in Game One of their UAAP titular series last Thursday at the Araneta Coliseum. Ateneo escaped with a 72-70 decision.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

By Dennis U. Eroa

FAR from flashing a beaten look, five-peat seeking La Salle looks forward to forcing a no-more tomorrow encounter and postponing Ateneo's date with glory this Sunday in Game Two of the UAAP best-of-three championship series at the Araneta Coliseum.

"It takes two games to win the title," said La Salle mentor Franz Pumaren. "Besides, we're not new to this kind of situation."

La Salle is known for its superb poise and ability to turn defeat into victory with a last-minute adrenalin rush.

The Eagles beat the Archers in Game One, 72-70, before a sea of fans waving green, white and blue flags last Thursday.

But the whole La Salle crew remains unfazed, saying things will soon be different with a victory on Sunday.

Confident

"I remain confident that we can pull this one," Pumaren noted. He also lashed back at "coaching geniuses" who sprang from nowhere analyzing La Salle's defeat.

Respected businessman-sportsman Terry Capistrano, also La Salle's team manager, said the season isn't over for the Archers.

"We only need to equalize on Sunday and then we'll think about the decider," Capistrano said.

A former national player and an Archer, Pumaren also came to the rescue of rookie point guard and former Xavier high school ace Tyrone Tang, who went scoreless and committed three turnovers in seven minutes of action.

"I'm not protecting the kid, but we went ahead when he was playing. Mike (Cortez) was ready to replace him in the fourth but there was no dead-ball situation," Pumaren stressed.

La Salle went ahead, 60-52, 9:34 remaining in the fourth period. Ateneo came back furiously and not even the entry of Cortez could stop the Archers' bleeding."

"I can accept criticisms. These are facts of coaching and that goes with the territory," Pumaren, also a Quezon City councilor, said.

Ateneo mentor Joel Banal acknowledged that a La Salle win in Game Two will put the pressure on the Eagles.

"La Salle will come out fired-up," Banal said. But we have better chances this year because we already have experience polished by our PBL stint."

This was only the first time since 1988 that the Archers lost to the Eagles twice-in-a row. And Pumaren had a ready answer to the setback.

"We committed a lot of mental lapses and we really didn't do what we're supposed to do," Pumaren said.

Though the Archers shot better from the field (4/9, 44 percent (3 points), 27/54, 50 percent), they got battered on and off the boards, 44-30.

There was a problem in boxing-out. At one point, lanky George Chia recovered his own miss despite the presence of La Salle big men. Chia had six, while Wesley Gonzales had five and Andrew Cruz four of Ateneo's 22 offensive boards to La Salle's nine.

As the smoke of the battle cleared, MVP-to-be Enrico Villanueva and Gonzales collared 10 rebounds each, while Rich Alvarez had eight, a proof of the Eagles' boundless energy.

Saved from an amazing third period, Carlo Sharma was outhustled by Villanueva in the middle. Also, Manny Ramos and Adonis Sta. Maria must recover their intensity to lessen Sharma's load and crack Ateneo's menacing frontline. Veteran Willy Wilson also needs to play with gusto.

Gun-shy

La Salle also needs the scoring ability of BJ Manalo, who failed to land in the scoreboard in 13 minutes of action. Manalo was gun-shy all throughout, attempting just thrice in Game One.

The Archers, however, will always look deadly with the presence of creative playmaker Mike Cortez (19 points, 5 rebounds, 9 assists), the colorful Mark Cardona (18 points, 5 rebounds) and daredevil Joseph Yeo.

"Right now, we're in a relaxed mood," Pumaren told the INQUIRER. "See you on Sunday."

RP archers competing in world tilt

FOR THE first time ever, a Philippine archery team will compete in the prestigious 2002 World Masters Games slated Oct. 5-13 in Melbourne, Australia.

Composed of recurve and compound archers, the team will be led by Gen. Jose Marlowe S. Pedregosa.

The other members are Raul Ramon O. Arambulo, Adam Jimenez and Dr. Juan Ma. Pablo Nanagas, the lone participant in the recurve event.

The Filipinos' trip is supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, PCSO and Qantas Airways, the delegation's official carrier.

Held every four years, the World Masters Games will feature 26 sports disciplines. The event is considered the biggest multi-sport festival in the world. Around 20,000 are expected to gather in Melbourne and participate in the international celebration of the "Sports for Life."

The Filipinos, who are scheduled to depart on Oct. 4, will compete in the indoor and target events where entries are classified according to age—30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70.

Indoor action is set on Oct. 7 at the Werribee Sports and Fitness Center, while the target outdoor round will be held on Oct. 8 and 9 at Chirnside ground Werribee Park National Equestrian Center.

Arambulo topped the test tournament for the compound division conducted by the archery association recently and established four records in preparation for the Busan Asian Games and the World Masters Games.

Arambulo's new marks are 1356 for Fita round and 326, 340 and 341 for 90, 70 and 50 meters, respectively. The old records were 1331 set by Earl Yap for Fita round, 323 (Arambulo) for 90 m, 336 (Arambulo) for 70 m and 337 (Arambulo) for 50 m.

6 Pinoy surfing bets reach quarterfinals

By Ma. Kristina Cassion
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SIARGAO ISLAND, Surigao del Norte—At least six Filipino surfers qualified for the quarterfinals in the 7th International Siargao Surfing Cup here yesterday after they sparkled in the 32-round elimination series.

The six surfers, including national champion Dionisio Espejon, will compete against 10 other wave riders from South Africa, Japan, Hawaii, Australia and USA to qualify in the semifinal and final rounds to be held today.

Event organizers from the Association of Surfing Professionals (ASP) for AustralAsia said this year witnessed a huge turnout of Filipino surfers.

Out of the 32 competitors, 19 are Filipinos dominated by local surfers from Gen. Luna town here.

"I'm happy to note that there are more Filipino surfers competing this year and they are even more skillful than before. It goes to show that more Filipinos have already appreciated this sport event," Steven Robertson, ASP board member said.

Robertson also said exposure to professional international surfers and good waves to practice on have contributed to the development of the Filipino surfers.

Meanwhile, ASP said it was planning to hold the world qualifying series next year here.

Surfers that would qualify in the event would compete in the world championship, which is the highest level of the competition in the surfing world.

"Siargao has the highest quality wave in the Philippines for professional surfers which is a requisite for the hosting of a world qualifying series," Robertson said.

30th Presidential Gold Cup slated

Manila Jockey Club hosting ₱2.37-M championship on Dec. 22

DE LEON

THE PRESIDENTIAL Gold Cup, local horse racing's most prestigious event, returns to the San Lazaro Hippodrome for its 30th staging on Dec. 22.

Major backer of the event is the Philippine Charity Sweepstake Office which will also be supported by the Philippine Racing Commission and the Manila Jockey Club, Inc.

PCSO chair Ma. Livia de Leon formally announced yesterday the holding of the P2.375-million championship during the official launching at the Turf Room of the MJCI.

"The running of the PCSO Presidential Gold Cup is part of our commitment to support the local horse racing industry by providing the ideal venue to showcase the development of the local breed and to highlight the significant contribution of horse racing in generating much-needed revenues for the government and additional funding for charities," said de Leon.

As part of the Gold Cup tradition, the event's main honoree, President Macapagal-Arroyo has been invited to grace the occasion and present the awards to this year's winning connections.

The 30th running of the PGC will also be spiced up by the simultaneous holding of the maiden draw of the PCSO 7-Digit Sweepstakes, which will be paired with the results of the race. The special PCSO 7-Digit Sweepstake Draw offers a whopping P10-million jackpot to the lucky ticket holder.

Winner of the PGC is guaranteed to receive a purse of P1.5-million, with P500,000, P250,000 and P125,000 allotted respectively to the second through fourth placers.

This year's PGC is an open weight-for-age championship exclusive for all locally-bred horses and will be disputed over a distance of 2,000-meters or 1-1/4 miles at the San Lazaro Hippodrome's main track.

The final day of nomination has been set on Nov. 19, while the final day of declaration is on Nov. 22 at the PCSO Draw and Races Department.

Top officials of the local horse racing industry led by Philracom chair Jaime A. Dilag and MJCI president Alfonso R. Reyno, Jr., formalized their support to the blue-ribbon racing event by signing a Memorandum of Agreement with de Leon outlining their respective commitments to the affair.

"The Philracom joins the whole racing industry in commending the PCSO and the MJCI for their laudable effort to ensure the continued staging of this annual horse racing classic," said Dilag.

Edwin Villanueva

UAE's Yugo coach worries Uichico

DRESS REHEARSAL
South Korean dancers perform during a dress rehearsal Friday for the opening ceremony of the 14th Asian Games at the Busan Asiad Stadium. The sportsfest formally opens tomorrow. AFP

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—It's the coach, not the players.

Seemingly, that's what bothers head coach Jong Uichico going to today's game between the Philippines and United Arab Emirates in the Asian Games basketball competitions.

The coach he is referring to is the coach of UAE, a Yugoslavian.

"I can't remember his name, but I was told he is really good," said Uichico of the Yugoslavian mentor of UAE. "New coach, new system."

UICHICO

Yugoslavia took the world basketball spotlight anew when it won the World Championship in Indianapolis. One of its prized victims was the NBA-powered United States team.

"It used to be that the UAE just took basketball lightly," said Uichico. "Today, UAE basketball officials have changed their outlook. Basketball has also become a priority for them that's why they took in a Yugoslavian to coach their cagers."

He said he has made some adjustments, anchored mainly on the loss of the injured Danny Seigle. Seigle was part of the starting five and the foot injury that cost him his slot in the team derailed Uichico's overall strategy.

"We are ready to go to war but our approach has changed somewhat that's why our first game against UAE should not be taken for granted," said Uichico. "The Yugoslavian coach has something up his sleeve that's why we've worked hard leading up to this game against UAE."

Uichico ordered his boys to practice twice on Thursday, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, to master the adjustments in the wake of Danny Seigle's exit from the team.

Yesterday, their afternoon workout dealt mainly on new patterns to "un-Seigle" the team.

"Allan (Caidic) and I were talking about how we beat UAE in 1998 in Bangkok," said Uichico. "We routed them there. But back then, the Emirates were there *na palaro-laro lang*. No system."

Uichico said the Yugoslavian coach has introduced a new system based not only on "discipline but also on structure."

PSC lauds Filipino backers

BUSAN—Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric R. Buhain thanks Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office for its unwavering support to Philippine sports.

"On behalf of the PSC, I would like to commend the PCSO chair Ma. Livia Singson-de Leon for extending help not only to the national athletes but to the development of local sports," Buhain said.

PCSO has given P20 million to the PSC, part of which was used by the national athletes for training and international exposures in preparation for the 14th Asian Games in Busan, South Korea.

Moreover, through the PCSO, the PSC granted P1 million financial assistance to the National Chess Federation of the Philippines for its participation in the 35th Bled (Slovenia) Chess Olympiad.

"PCSO's generosity has boosted the morale of the Philippine Team in giving its best shot in the Asian Games," Buhain added.

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HANDSTAND

Thai captain Kiatisuk Senamuang (right) does a handstand after scoring the opening goal against Yemen in the first round of the Asian Games soccer competitons in Masan, South Korea yesterday. Thailand won, 3-0. In other opening matches, China ripped Turkmenistan, 4-0, while Vietnam and the UAE played to a scoreless draw. AFP

ASIAD SOCCER

S. Korea, China XIs win

BUSAN, South Korea—World Cup player Choi Tae-uk headed in a goal in the sixth minute Friday night as South Korea opened its quest for the Asian Games soccer gold medal with a 4-0 victory over the Maldives

China also opened with a 4-0 victory, over Turkmenistan, as the 24-team tournament began its preliminary round two days before the games' formal opening ceremony.

In Group A with South Korea, Oman beat Malaysia 1-0 on a second-half goal by Taqi Mubarak Marhoon Al Siyabi. In Group C with China, India defeated Bangladesh 3-0.

Thailand beat Yemen 3-0 and Vietnam held the United Arab Emirates to a scoreless draw in Group B matches.

In this year's World Cup, South Korea became the first Asian nation to reach the semifinals. Japan reached the last 16 in the 32-nation field, and China, making its debut, went out in the first round.

14th Asian Games BUSAN 2002

There are few World Cup veterans in the Asian Games, however, because of the age limit of 23.

Choi, who was a reserve on South Korea's World Cup team, headed in a cross from Choi Sung-kuk for his team's quick lead. Lee Dong-gook scored two second-half goals for the Koreans.

China also struck quickly. Xu Liang scored on a 22-meter free kick in the 14th minute.

Yan Song sent in a sharply angled kick in the 38th minute, Wang Xinxin scored from 24 meters in the 58th and Sun Xiang maneuvered past two defenders and sent his kick past one more defender and the goalkeeper in the 82nd.

"Our players had a wonderful match. I am satisfied with their performance," Chinese head coach Shen Xiangfu said.

Thailand had goals from Narongchai Vachiraban, Manit Noyvach and Kiatisuk Senamuang.

Japan plays its opener Saturday against Palestine. North Korea, also considered a medal contender, starts against Hong Kong.

Duremdes: From rookie to captain

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—The rookie is now a veteran.

And more.

That's Kenneth Duremdes for you in this year's Asian Games basketball competitions.

The Captain Marbel of Mindanao was a 20-year-old babe in the woods of the national quintet in the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima, where the Philippines placed fourth.

In the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok, Duremdes was the team's first-game hero after he sank the winning freethrow with 2.3 ticks left in the RP-Kazakhstan encounter.

"That was an MVP free throw," said Duremdes, who was chosen the PBA's MVP months before the 1998 Asiad blastoff.

He had actually a split. But the free throw that went in was all the country needed to beat Kazakhstan, 53-52. But more importantly, that free throw gunned up the country's third-place finish. The bronze medal would later turn out to be almost worth the gold medal.

"I hope it would not be that close again when we play UAE tomorrow," said Duremdes, now 28 years old and the captain of the RP team. "Nabigla talaga kami noon sa Kazakhstan."

Duremdes said the Kazakhstan game of '98 was a big lesson.

"We should really step up sa first game pa lang," he said. "Our first game will leave a lasting impression on the opposition. First game pa lang, ipakita na natin na katatakutan tayo."

The 6-foot-3 Duremdes, born Jan. 31, 1974, will have his hands full filling up the slot vacated by the injured Danny Seigle.

Lack of golf courses not stopping Nokors

SEOUL, South Korea—North Korean golfers have an outstanding guide, word from the isolated communist nation says—totalitarian leader Kim Jong Il once began a lesson with an eagle on the 340-yard first hole.

Moreover, North Korean officials told visiting Australian journalists in 1994, the "Great Leader" routinely shoots three or four holes-in-one per round.

The personality cult around the North Korean ruler includes mention of a round where he aced five holes and finished 38 under par on the nation's only 18-hole course, near the capital, Pyongyang.

Outside their country, North Korean golfers have yet to make a mark.

"Golf is almost nonexistent in the North. Taking into account that there is only one 18-hole course, we believe there are no professional golfers," said Kim Dong-wook, general secretary at South Korea's Golf Association.

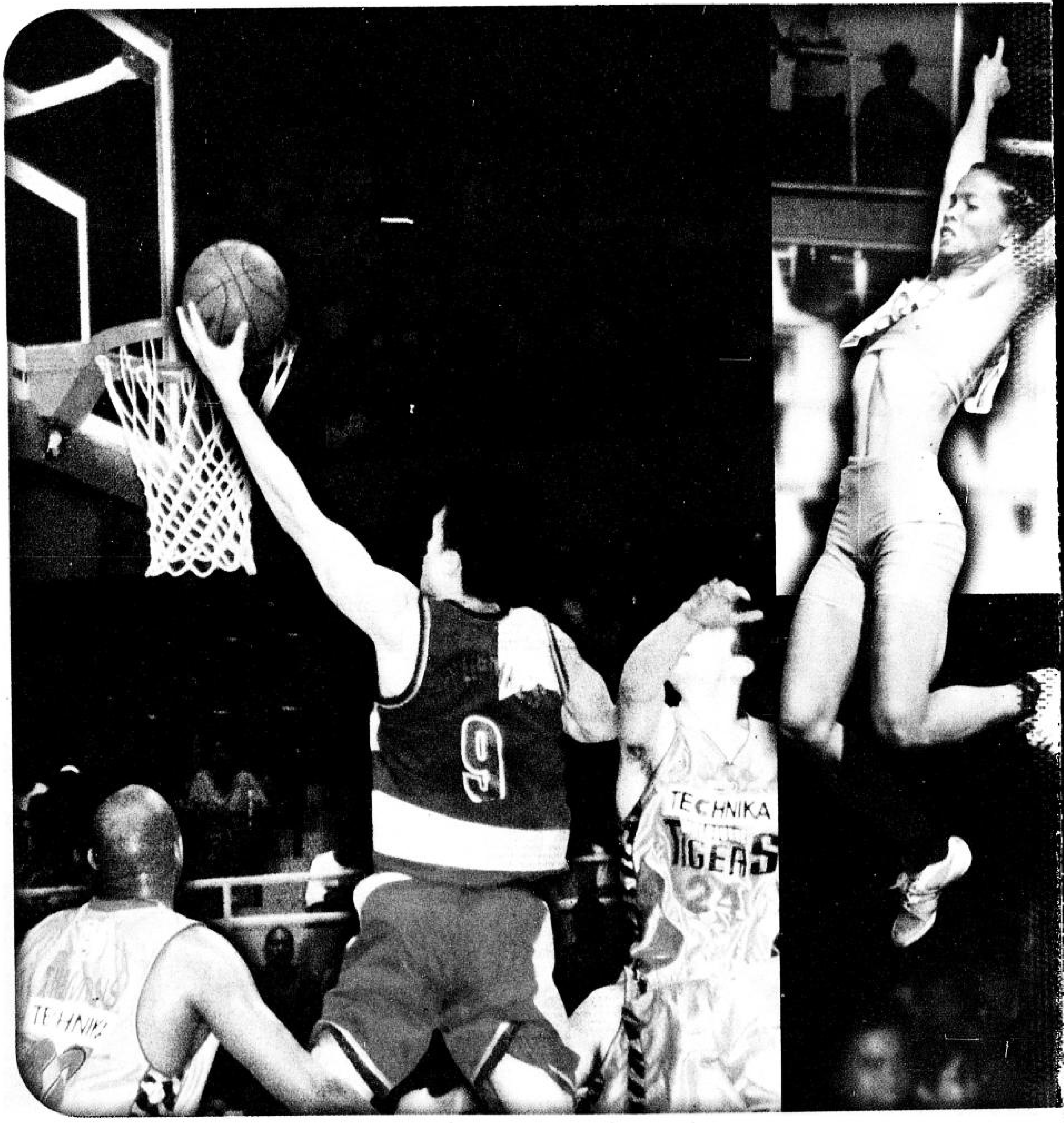
Thus the North's team for the golf event opening next Thursday at the Asian Games consists of four men belonging to the pro-North Korean Chochongryon, or General Association of Korean Residents, in Japan.

Kim Joong Kwang, a veteran of the last Asian Games in Bangkok in 1998, heads the entries. His teammates are Kim Myong Chan, Shim Dae Soo and Ri Choong Nam.

South Korean golf officials believe them to be "weekend golfers," who play as a hobby.

"We think they are golfers with memberships to golf clubs who play fairly well," said Kim, the golf official.

Simply for victory



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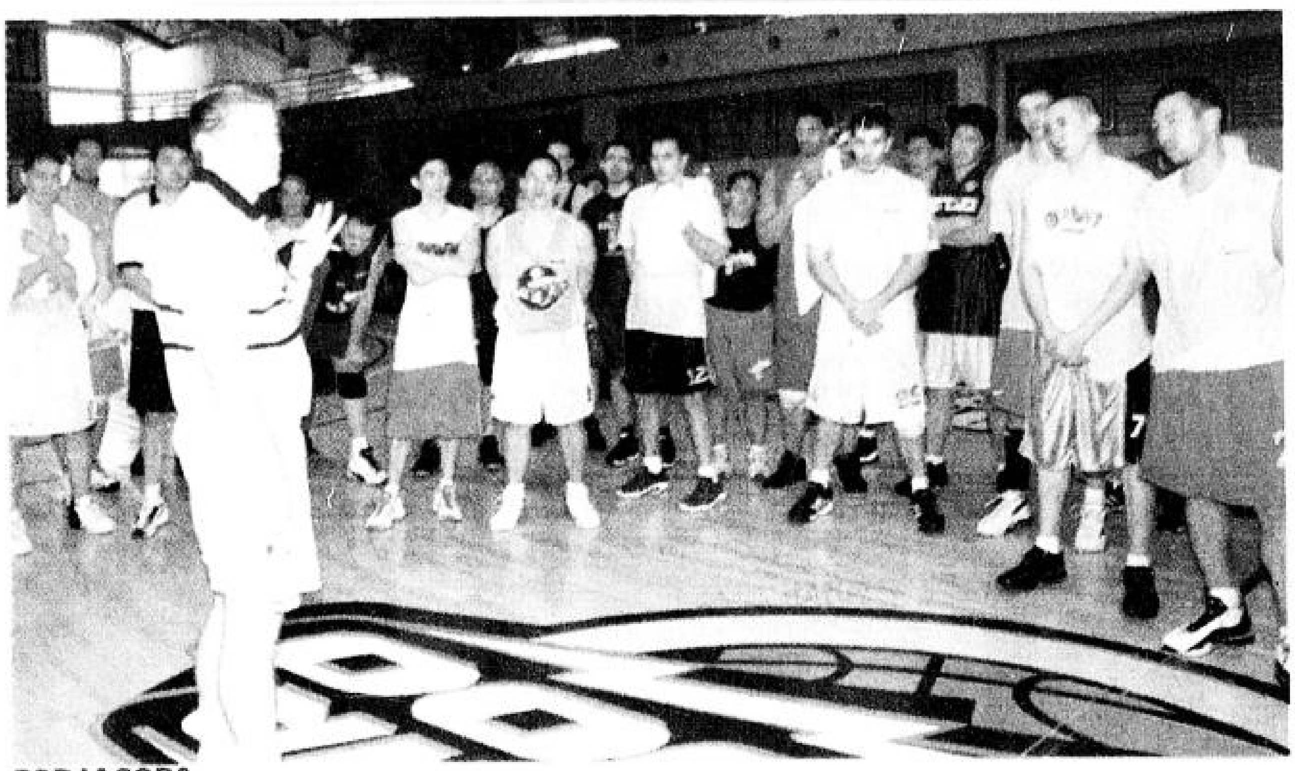


FOR JACOBS
Ron Jacobs gives pointers to Philippine team hopefuls in this file photo at the Moro Lorenzo Gym. The nationals, now in Busan, have dedicated all their games to the former national mentor, who fell ill, in the course of discharging his duties.

'All our games will be for coach Ron'

By Al S. Mendoza.

BUSAN—On the eve of the Philippines' game against the United Arab Emirates, Jong Uichico's thought were on Ron Jacobs.

Without sounding overly patriotic, Uichico said he wanted to reiterate that he was dedicating all his games to Jacobs from today onward.

"What I am today, what I know about coaching, I owe everything to coach Ron Jacobs," said Uichico, head coach of the Philippines basketball team.

The Philippine quintet debuts today against the United Arab Emirates. Game time is 3 p.m.

Uichico and his players and coaching staff visited Jacobs at the hospital before they left for this bustling city by the sea on Wednesday.

"Our prayers will always be for the speedy recovery of coach Ron," said Uichico, who inherited the job from Jacobs after Jacobs suffered a stroke some months back.

Admitting he is "a bit nervous" going into today's baptism of fire in Asian games coaching, Uichico said he is happy with the thought that "whatever would be the outcome of our campaign here, Coach Ron knows I gave it my best shot all the time."

Uichico said that more than the honor bestowed upon him to coach the national quintet "was the honor of the country" that he said would always foremost in his mind.

"There is a big task at hand," he said. "The boys know that and I'm happy to see them really in high spirits. They are exceptionally happy today (Friday) and that's a good sign of things to come. I'm sure they will now disappoint me tomorrow against UAE and in the next games to come."

RP official predicts haul of 7 golds

BUSAN—Philippine delegation chef de mission Tomas Carrasco Jr. was featured in yesterday's issue of the Busan Asiad, official newspaper of the 14th Asian Games set on Sept. 29 to Oct. 14 in this scenic port city.

The newspaper quoted Carrasco as saying that RP athletes would bring home at least seven gold medals.

"They'll deliver this time," said Carrasco of his wards. "Billiards, boxing and basketball should produce medals, and we may even be a dark horse in karatedo, golf and possibly athletics."

The Philippine won only one gold medal in the Bangkok Asiad four years ago, courtesy of Gandy Valle and Romeo Villanueva in the billiards doubles event.

The Busan Asiad also talked of the cheerleading squad which the Philippines is sending here.

"The addition of an organized, 35-member cheering squad is another positive change in the Philippine camp," the article noted. It quoted Philippine Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain as saying "it (the cheering team) just might spell the difference between winning and losing."

Carrasco, according to the article, thinks that all eight of his boxers, 12 of his taekwondo jins and half of his bowlers have a shot at a gold.

A photo of Carrasco accompanied the article, which appeared on page two together with stories announcing the arrival here of OCA (Olympic Council of Asia) president Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah and Soutgh Korean delegation chef de mission Yu Hong-jong's statement that the hosts are sure to grab over 80 golds and rank second overall in the Busan Games.

NBN coverage kicks off today

THE Asian Games coverage of the National Broadcasting Network's dubbed as "Dream4Gold" got a boost following the entry of Samsung as presentor and FedEx as major sponsor.

"Dream4Gold," also sponsored by Milo, Motolite and Centrum, will start with the RP-Selecta's first match against United Arab Emirates today, Sept. 28, at 3:30 p.m. and will be immediately followed by the equally exciting match between Kazakhstan and Qatar at 4:30 p.m.

Focus will be on the Sept. 29 opening ceremonies, which will be aired live starting at 5 p.m. Quinito Henson and Chiqui Roa will anchor the coverage from the main studio–with TeleDyaryo host Chino Trinidad, boxing analyst Yeng Guiao, bubbly Sev Sarmenta, Patricia Bermudez, TeleDyaryo sports reporter Lala Roque, Peachie Reyes, Chot Reyes, Vito Lazatin, Mymy Davao and Ed Picson bringing the action from Busan.

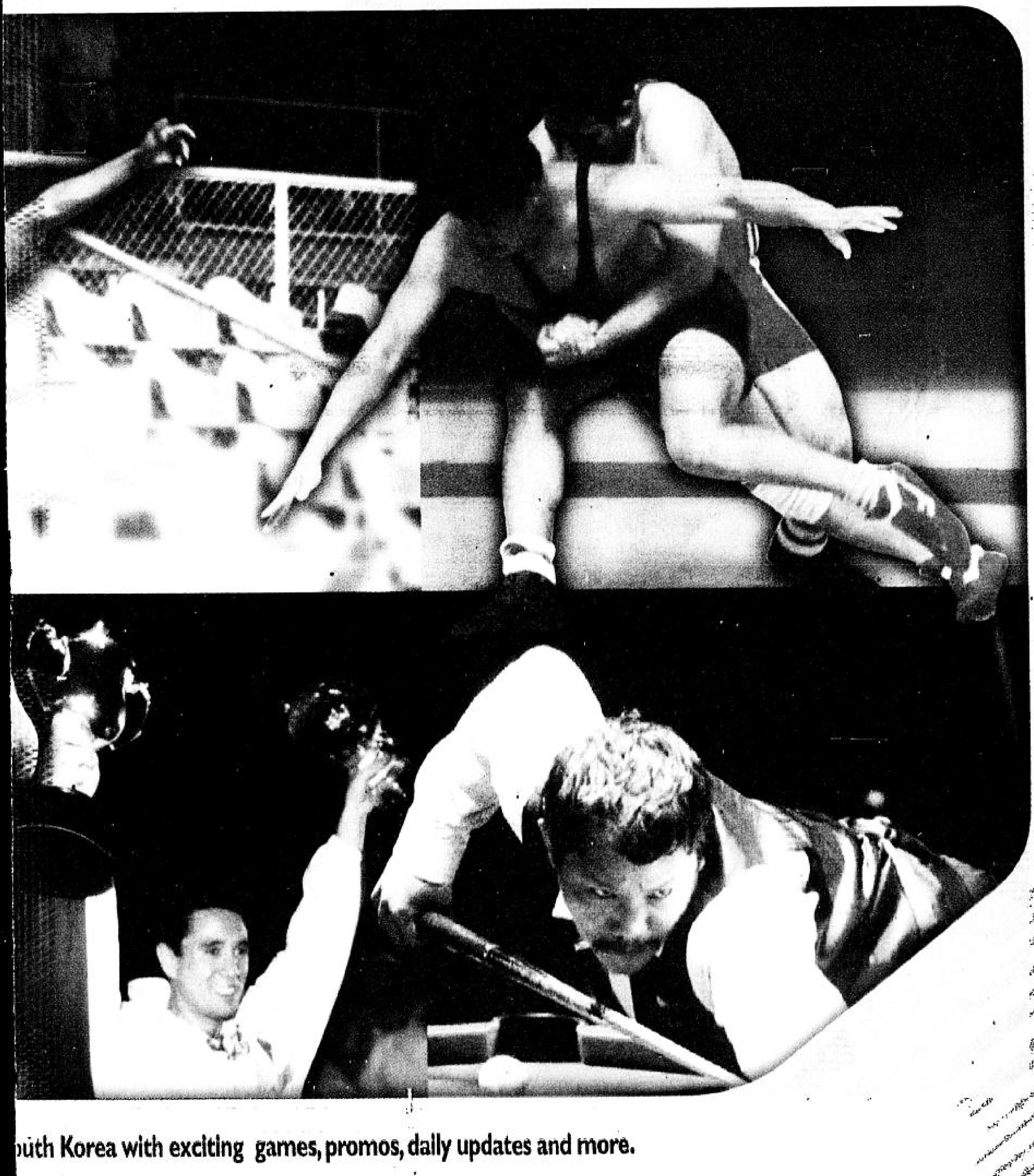
NBN has also put up satellite studios and giant screens at Glorietta, MegaMall, Robinson's Galleria and the Korean Embassy to keep Filipinos updated on the Asian Games.

Bill Velasco will be the Man on the Street to get reactions from sportsfans.

After the opening ceremonies, NBN's Dream4Gold will immediately telecast the individual fencing finals featuring Richard Gomez and Rolando Canlas, Jr. in the men's epee and men's foil, respectively before the day's recap from 10-10:30 p.m.

On Monday, Sept. 30, NBN's Dream4Gold coverage will start at 9 a.m. to be highlighted by the swimming preliminaries and heats at 2 p.m. the basketball match between Japan and Korea at 3 p.m. and RP-Selecta versus People's Republic of Korea at 5.

The coverage goes on with the swimming finals at 7, the daily recap from 10-10:30 p.m., the judo finals from 10:30-11 p.m. and the swimming finals direct from Busan from 11 to 11:30 p.m.



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34TH RYDER CUP ON

Europe golfers pace US rivals, 3-0

By Mark Lamport-Stokes
Reuters Writer

SUTTON COLDFIELD, England—Europe stormed into a 3-0 lead over the United States in the 34th Ryder Cup on Friday as Tiger Woods' poor record in the competition continued.

The world number one and his partner Paul Azinger lost by one hole to Darren Clarke and Thomas Bjorn shortly after Lee Westwood, playing with Sergio Garcia, holed an 18-foot birdie putt at the 15th to earn Europe's first point with a 4 and 3 victory over David Duval and Davis Love.

The experienced European pair of Colin Montgomerie and Bernhard Langer then closed out their match against Scott Hoch and Jim Furyk 4 & 3 to give Europe the perfect start in their bid to win back the trophy.

Bjorn had collected his sixth birdie at the par-four 16th to put himself and Clarke two up against Woods and Azinger.

But Woods hit back with a birdie-four at the long 17th to take the match to the 18th before Bjorn settled matters with his seventh birdie.

Northern Ireland's Clarke had made a fast start with four birdies in the first five holes, but Woods recovered from a bogey-five at the first with birdies at the second, third, fifth and eighth holes to give the United States a one-hole advantage.

The 26-year-old Woods had found the same fairway bunker as Clarke off the tee at the 411-yard first but was distracted by a photographer on his back-swing and ended up pushing his second shot right into a greenside bunker.

"Not on my swing, golly, Christ," the American yelled in frustration before he and Azinger fell behind.

Woods, however, hit back with a birdie-three at the 379-yard second but it was matched by Clarke, who sank his second successive birdie putt from around eight feet.

Westwood and Garcia, playing in the second group out, had been three ahead with five to play before the Englishman reeled off his fifth birdie of the day.

Spaniard Garcia tapped in a par-putt from two feet at the first to put himself and Westwood one up against Duval and Love, both Americans having found trouble off the tee.

Although the US pair both birdied the par-five third hole to level matters, Westwood birdied the fifth and seventh to put the Europeans one up.

Garcia, the only player to attempt to drive the green at the par-four 10th hole, found the water there but still managed to save his par before Westwood birdied the 12th from 10 feet to give the European combination a two-hole cushion.

Both Garcia and Westwood then birdied the par-four 13th to go three up before they clinched victory on the 15th.

Gamez fires 63, leads Texas Open by 1 shot

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—Robert Gamez shot a course-record seven-under-par 63 on Thursday and holds a one-shot lead after the first round of the $3.5-million Texas Open.

While the eyes of the golf world will be on the Ryder Cup this weekend, Gamez did his best to take advantage of the depleted field at this event.

Gamez had few problems at the LaCantera Golf Club, posting a round that included nine birdies and two bogeys. Gamez has a one-shot lead over John Huston and Frank Lickliter and is two strokes in front of D.A. Weibring.

"I played solid all day," said Gamez, who has four top 10 finishes this year. "I hit a lot of good golf shots and I started out well. That's what you have to do to shoot a good score." Justin Leonard, who sank the controversial putt that clinched the 1999 Ryder Cup for the United States, is entered in this event and shot a 69.

Starting his round on the back nine, Gamez went right to work with consecutive birdies on Nos. 10 and 11. On the par-four 10th, he hit a 6-iron to within 12 feet of the cup. *AFP*

US Ryder Cup team player Tiger Woods holds hands with his girlfriend Elin Nordegren as they leave the opening ceremony for the 34th Ryder Cup at The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, England, on Thursday. AP

Memories of 9-11 tone down rivalry

By Tim Dahlberg
AP Sports Writer

SUTTON COLDFIELD, England—The players still wear jackets that say "Ryder Cup 2001," and they'll compete for the same gold trophy an English merchant put up for the first time in 1927.

Almost everything else has changed, though, as golf's patriotic showcase begins Friday after a one-year delay caused by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Perhaps no other sporting event was affected as much by the attacks, just two weeks before the United States and Europe were to play in the 34th rendition of the game's toughest, most pressure-filled team tournament.

At the time, the Europeans were still angry over a US celebration that went over the top and onto the green in 1999 in Brookline, Massachusetts. And the Americans were determined to prove their Sunday comeback to win was no fluke.

Now, it all doesn't seem to mean quite as much, to the fans or players.

"Because of what transpired last year, I think we all have a better understanding of where this thing needs to be put," Tiger Woods said.

Beginning Friday, the three-day tournament will be put in a former potato field in this Birmingham suburb, where the 12 players on each team who were supposed to play a year ago finally hit the ball for real.

Woods, the world's best player, will lead a US team trying to keep the cup while playing in front of a crowd that might have been hostile to the Americans before 9-11.

De Castro gains jr tennis semis

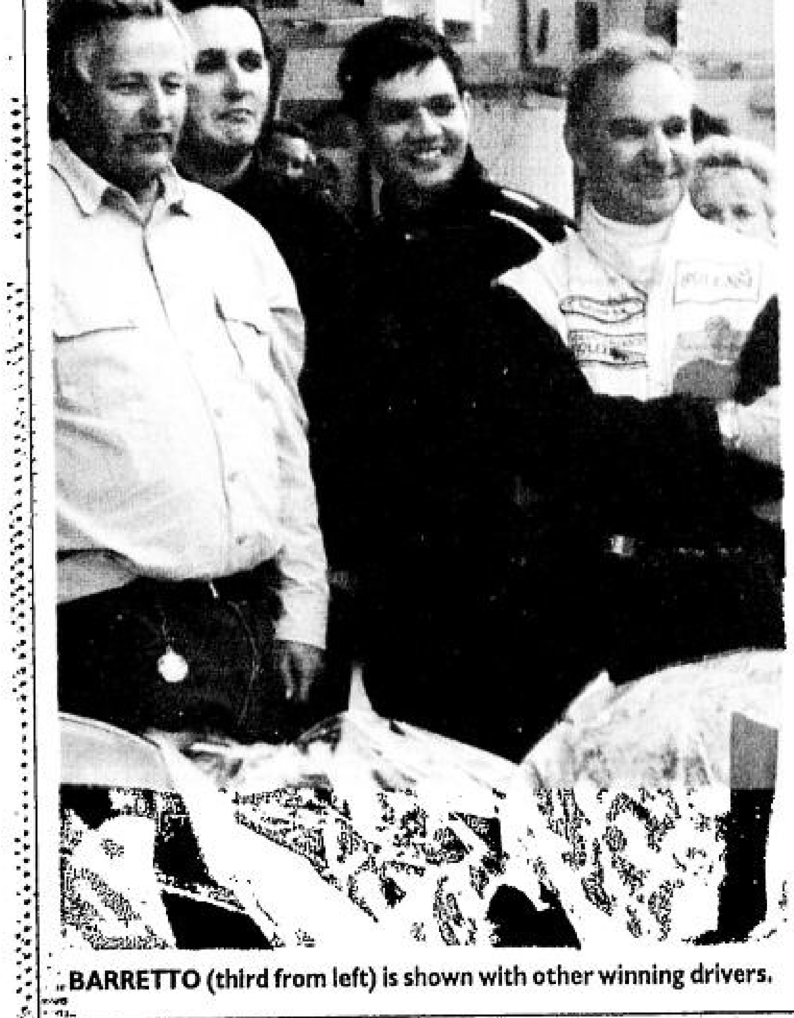
SECOND seed Ivy De Castro reached the girls 16-under finals on a pair of walk-over victories in the rain-delayed Cargohaus Junior Tennis Cup yesterday at the Rizal Tennis center.

De Castro, who won her first match over Karen Reyes, 6-1, 6-0, last Sunday, gained a spot in the final four round after a no-show by Arianne Gumban in their quarterfinals before advancing anew on another walk-over following a double default between Katrina Pamintuan and Catherine Flores.

RP DRIVER SHINES

'It's a dream come true to be at Le Mans'

(Editor's Note: For the first time in motorsport history, a Filipino has won at Le Mans. Angelo Barretto took the checkered flag along with owner-drivers Thierry Perrier and Jean-Paul Richard of Perspective Racing. Driving a vintage 1966 Porsche 906 Carrera 6 the team won first place overall competing against over 600 racers in the first running of the Le Mans Classic. This is his story.)



BARRETTO (third from left) is shown with other winning drivers.

By Angelo Barretto

LAST weekend was my biggest win to date—first overall at the inaugural Le Mans Classic. The race is a celebration of the Le Mans challenge with cars from 1925-1975. All the winning cars and the top drivers that have participated in the event were present and the event itself was presented in such a large scale.

That is one of the reasons that the win is a big deal here in France . . . the actual circuit for the big Le Mans 24hr endurance race every June is mostly on public roads. Thus, it is opened only on one weekend in June every year. Then, all the big names (manufacturers and drivers alike) try to make the pre-qualifying cut and earn a slot on the grid.

To be at Le Mans was one of my dreams since I was a child, so the chance to be at the Classic takes me closer to that and allows me the unique opportunity to 'learn' the circuit and gain valuable track time. It is a dream come true to be here and win on my first time and that is making the news all over France. One of the headlines in the sports sections had the translation read "Premiere Filipino" and a quote from the team that I was " . . . one of the best drivers they had seen."

I co-drove a 1966 Porsche 906 Carrera 6 with Thierry Perrier and ran for the same team that will prepare the 2000 Porsche 996 GT3RS that I am running at Miami on October 5-6. The 906 is like a big go-kart with a 200hp flat-6 engine and racing at 250kph down the long Mulsanne straight is truly a test of confidence and resolve. But a big rush nonetheless. And all around the circuit, the people cheer you on. You drive back into the paddock to a wave of applause from the crowd and it is a tremendous show of appreciation.

During the race, I felt firsthand the depth of experience that the team had (12-times at Le Mans) and realized that this was the key ingredient to success at the 24hr race. Their organization and timing were impeccable and they had so much personal knowledge of the circuit. This is the right team to be with if we are chasing the top prize next June. Of course then it will be much more difficult, but not as daunting anymore. The circuit is a challenge because it requires so much precision, and nowhere have I put so much importance on preparation (except probably Spa-Francor champs) to maintain speed throughout the lap.

Then, to stand on the podium down at the pitlane lined with people was breathtaking. For Thierry Perrier, it was a dream come true on a different level as he had seen this car racing at this circuit when he was a child and instantly got hooked on the dream of Le Mans. To come back in the same car and win it was a big moment for him. For me, hearing the announcer say that it was my first time and my first 1st place was a prophecy of things to come.

At the driver sign-on on Friday, the FIA stewards were so pleased to see an Asian on the list. It felt good to be able to say I was a Filipino. At the post-podium interviews, it was even better to say it and watch their looks of amazement and disbelief. Bet they didn't expect that to happen at Le Mans last Sunday.

The whole winning at Le Mans was different from a racer's point of view—as when it happened, I appreciated the challenge, the precision and the strategy. Plus, I realized that my goal to do the big 24hr race every June was not so far away anymore. I was one step closer.

My point of view was broadened somewhat when the French commentator made a big deal about the victory being significant because I was Filipino. Yes, I knew that there is no history of Filipinos competing at Le Mans, but when the crowd of thousands was receptive to it with cheers and congratulations, I knew that it was a significant step for Filipinos worldwide.

In this day and age where we get so much negative publicity about terrorism, kidnapping and corruption in our country, the fact that the world can appreciate the positive points about our country/countrymen is a victory in itself. I guess it doesn't have to be racing related, but in this instance, I felt it from the podium.

Another good vibe I felt throughout the weekend was the enthusiasm everybody shared for the event. People from all nations—the Brits in period dress to match the eras of their automobiles, the Dutch and their penchant for large muscle cars, the French and their attention to detailing the race car in its proper livery from when it last raced and the Americans who were just trying to fit in to a 'cult' that they can only dream of replicating on their shores. All good, but so vastly dissimilar.

The surreal scene that I have in my mind is of walking to the Dunlop bridge, just after the first set of esses past the Start-Finish line at 3 a.m. and seeing row upon row of spectators huddled in the biting cold watching the race progress from behind the chainlink fence. In the background was the French-English commentary interspersed with the hard-hitting beats of the latest dance tunes. A strange mix for a classic event, but an effective way of keeping everybody entertained.

Another picture I have in my mind is that of the 1920's cars coming into the esses as fast as the 90 mph terminal velocities will allow them to go, the racers muscling the large truck like steering wheels to get the four miniscule patches of vintage Dunlop tires on wire-laced rims to grip and overcome the weight of the monstrous chassis perched upon them. It takes an intimate knowledge of your Bugatti, or a very strong belief that you are invincible to commit to a racing line like that. And they did it with the same conviction and marginally less effective lighting apparatus when darkness came.

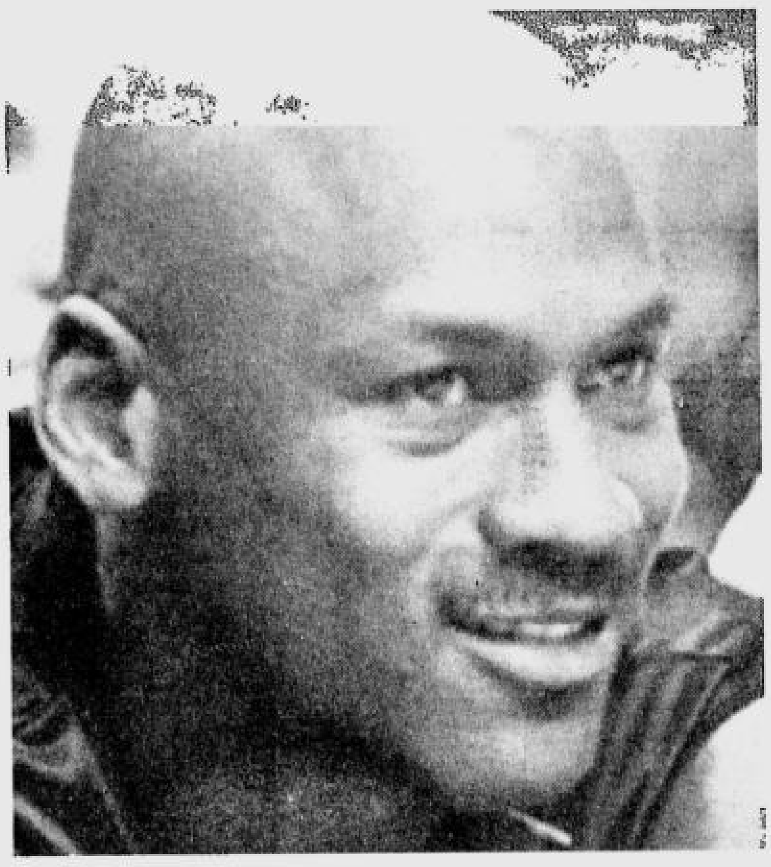
I may have had my turn in a state-of-the-art (for 1966) Porsche prototype, but my respect and admiration goes out to men and women like them.

I also realized that my chance to drive that Carrera 6 was truly a chance-of-a-lifetime. Gathered on the starting grid for our group (Plateau 5) were the 5 finest raceworthy examples of the 906 model line in existence and they were there to run as they were created to do—hard and fast.

Thierry Perrier gave me a tip as I strapped myself into the low-slung cockpit of the Carrera 6 for my first night time session and said that the car "will do this (tilting his body in time to the imaginary steering wheelsweep) and you must be ready because she is on old tires that are very tall." I felt it for the first time at the rise into the Porsche Kurves and it caught me off guard for a moment.

It was not so much the oversteering motion as you pitched the car into the left hander at the top of the hill, but what felt like the tires gently folding under the g-forces of a fourth gear entry. It didn't break away (yes, I thanked God for that as it would have gone into the wall at high speed), but it just held that attitude until you straightened out the wheel.

Jordan's back for now



JORDAN: No details given on his return.

By Joseph White
AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON— Michael Jordan said he feels strong, so he's coming back.

Satisfied that his knees can take the pounding, Jordan confirmed Thursday that he'll play another season for the Washington Wizards. His one-page fax left everything else a mystery, including whether he indeed will be content as a backup.

"My love for the game of basketball continues to drive my decision," the statement said. "Physically I am feeling very strong, and feel that the steps I took in the off-season have allowed me to return to the game in great condition."

Jordan won't answer questions until Monday, when the Wizards hold media day in Washington as a prelude to the start of training camp the following day in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Coach Doug Collins has said he plans to use Jordan as a sixth man at shooting guard, and that he doesn't want to use Jordan at small forward because of the physical demands.

With Jordan, however, such plans are never a certainty. Last season, whenever Collins, trainers or even Jordan himself tried to limit his playing time, his competitiveness would get the better of him. He exceeded his projected minutes almost every night.

Jordan will turn 40 in February, though, and the Wizards have added some talent since the end of last season. They acquired point guard Larry Hughes, shooting guard Jerry Stackhouse and small forward Bryon Russell to start on the perimeter.

"No decisions have been made as to my exact role on the team," Jordan said in the statement. "I expect that Coach Collins will make those assessments next week in training camp."

The statement also did not address whether this season would be Jordan's last, although he had previously said he would not play beyond the two-year contract he signed with the Wizards last year.

Magic in Hall of Fame

NEW YORK—Great athletes inspire awe, surprise, fascination. Magic Johnson did all that and more. He made people smile.

These days, when sports often seem oh-so-serious and too many stars appear angry with the world or aloof from it, a glimpse at Magic's own wide-eyed, 1,000-watt smile would be mighty welcome.

His induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts, on Friday is as much a reminder of what he accomplished in the game.

Angels rip Rangers, clinch playoff spot

ARLINGTON, Texas—Garret Anderson, Tim Salmon and Scott Spiezio homered as the Anaheim Angels finally clinched their first playoff berth since 1986, beating the Texas Rangers 10-5 Thursday.

A few hours later, Oakland clinched the AL West for the second time in three seasons, finalizing the playoff matchups with a 5-3, 10-inning victory at Seattle.

Anaheim, which had lost four consecutive games and seven of nine, is in the postseason for the first time since 1986.

"I had a glimpse of it my first year, but that has been a sour note in my career until now," Anderson said. "I was so close, then the last six or seven years I got a rude awakening of how hard it is to really get to the postseason. I'm enjoying this."

In other games it was Chicago 3, Boston 2; Cleveland 8, Minnesota 4; Toronto 5, Baltimore 1; and Kansas City 7, Detroit 2. Tampa Bay's game at New York was rained out and would be made up Monday only if it's needed to determine home-field advantage in the second round.

With the score 2-2 in the fifth, Salmon hit a tiebreaking infield single and Anderson hit a three-run homer off Colby Lewis (1-3). Salmon and Spiezio hit two-run homers in the seventh.

Rookie John Lackey (9-4) allowed three runs and seven hits in five-plus innings.

After the first three weeks this season, the Angels were 6-14—their worst 20-game start ever—and 10 1/2 games behind Seattle in the AL West. They have a club-record 97 wins, including 45 on the road.

"It's been a long grind. It's been emotionally draining and physically draining," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "We got over that little rough spot of maybe guys were trying to bull themselves through that last game to get at least to the playoffs." Athletics 5, Mariners 3, 10 innings.

In Seattle, Scott Hatteberg hit a tiebreaking two-out, two-run double in the 10th inning off Shigetoshi Hasegawa (8-3) as Oakland clinched the American League West title for the second time in three years. *AP*

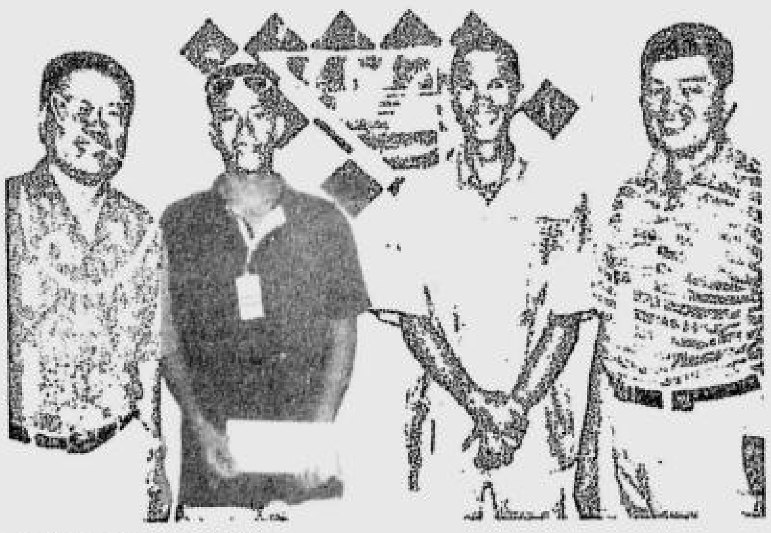
BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Chi White Sox 3, Boston 2; Anaheim 10, Texas 5; Toronto 5, Baltimore 1; Oakland 5, Seattle 3 (10 innings); Cleveland 8, Minnesota 4; Kansas City 7, Detroit 2; Tampa Bay at NY Yankees (Postponed)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cincinnati 1, Chicago Cubs 0; Montreal 4, Florida 3; St. Louis 9, Milwaukee 1; Arizona 4, Colorado 2; Los Angeles 6, San Diego 5; Atlanta at Philadelphia (Postponed) NY Mets at Pittsburgh (Postponed) P



CYCLING BACKER
Airfreight 2100-Fedex Express Tour executive director Mar Mendoza (extreme left) hands over the $500 assistance and cycling apparel to Asian Games-bound cyclists Paterno Curtan and Victor Espiritu. Also shown in photo is Express Tour technical chief Paquito Rivas (extreme right).

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Compiled by L. Manguiat

TENNIS: ATP Stella Artois Championships 2002 at 6:30 p.m. on Star Sports
MOTOR SPORTS: 2002 F1 Qualifying - United States tomorrow at 2 a.m. on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA Valero Texas Open at 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. (r - 8:30 p.m.) on Star Sports
LPGA First Union Betsy King Classic at 9:30 a.m. on Star Sports
LPGA State Farm Classic at 5:30 p.m, on ESPN

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14th Asian Games BUSAN 2002

ASIAD OPENER

2 Koreas marching as one

BUSAN, South Korea—North and South Korea will march as one in a symbolic gesture of unity at the Asian Games opening ceremony on Sunday—but who will carry their joint flag could cause a headache for organizers.

The two Koreas will be represented by a 'unity flag,' a blue picture of the Korean peninsula on a white background, when they take part in the extravaganza at the Busan Stadium.

But the issue of which country will provide the flag-carrying athlete is shrouded in mystery—and Olympic Council of Asia president Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah added a new twist to the debate here Thursday.

Asked at a press conference whether athletes from two countries could carry a single flag, Al-Sabah ruled it out.

"No, we can't have two athletes walking under one flag," Al-Sabah said. "We have a tradition of one athlete carrying the flag," the Kuwaiti official said, without referring to the two Koreas directly.

At the Sydney Olympics, when the two Koreas walked side-by-side into Stadium Australia at the opening ceremony, a member of each country's delegation headed the mixed procession.

South Korean women's basketball player Chung Eun-Soon and North Korean judo coach Pak Jang-Chol entered the stadium with their hands in a symbol of unity.

Despite his apparent reluctance to let two Koreans hold the flag, Al-Sabah expressed his delight at the prospect of the bitter historical rivals walking together at the opening ceremony.

"This is a great symbol. Sport is the engine of friendship," said Al-Sabah.

North Korea's participation at the Asian Games is another indication of warming ties with the Stalinist state's southern neighbor.

The two countries remain technically war since no peace treaty was ever signed at the end of their bitter 1950-53 conflict.

The North's participation in the South is being governed by strict guidelines, with the communist country's flag only allowed to be raised at competition venues and medal ceremonies.

It is against the law in South Korea to unfurl the Northern flag and organizers have got the message: a page on the Asian Games information service showing flags of participating countries has a blank under North Korea. *AFP*

NORTH Korean players arrive as South Koreans wave unification flags at Kimhae airport near Busan yesterday. The second batch of 152 North Korean athletes, officials and support staff arrived in South Korea to participate in the 14th Asian Games which starts tomorrow. REUTERS

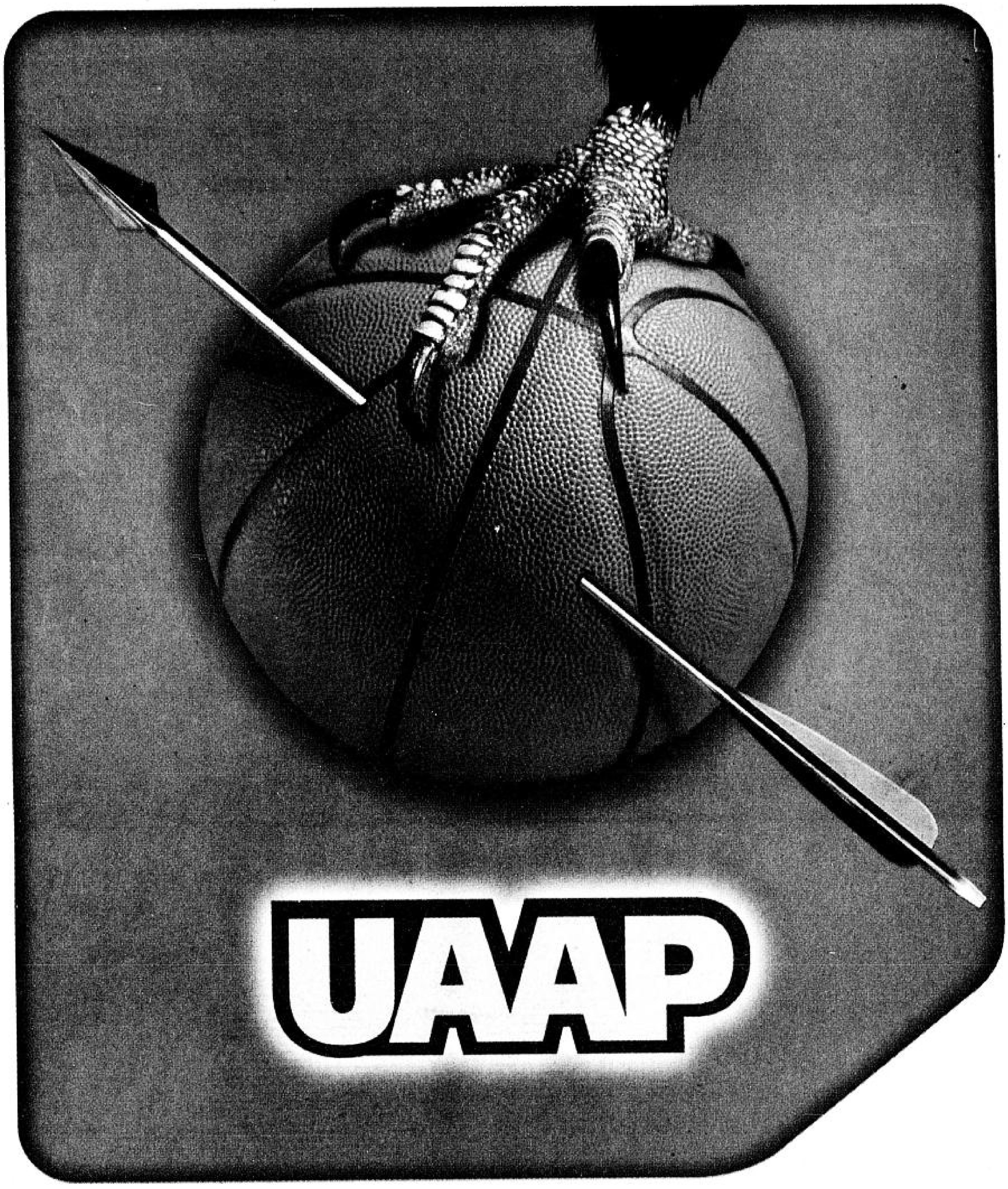
Ticket sales picking up

BUSAN, South Korea—Ticket sales finally are starting to increase for the Asian Games starting Sunday, organizers say.

From a rate of 3,000 to 5,000 a day, sales have climbed to 20,000 to 30,000 a day, they reported.

Still, 85 percent of the 2.6 million tickets for events in 38 sports remained unsold as of Thursday.

Simply no holds barred.



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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

EX-COP Danilo Fernandez is one of six convicted of kidnapping. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Death for 6 kidnappers

By Tina Santos

SIX MEN, including a former Manila policeman, yesterday were meted out double death sentences each for the 1999 kidnapping of a rich Chinese-Filipino woman and her driver in Manila.

The court acquitted a seventh accused, a woman that the men had hired as their laundrywoman while they were holding the victims.

Judge Benjamin Antonio of RTC Branch 170 found Danilo Fernandez, a former mem-

EX-COP/ A37

MONTERO

DEL BIANCO

'Arrest them'

By Alcuin Papa

BUREAU of Immigration agents were deployed around the country to arrest movie and television stars Vanessa del Bianco and KC Montero for violating immigration laws.

Roy Almoro, executive director of the Bureau of Immigration, told the INQUIRER that a mission order had been issued for the arrest and detention of Del Bianco and Montero several weeks ago. The two stars have been working in the country without the necessary working visas, he said.

Del Bianco and Montero are "already in hiding," according to Almoro.

He said mission orders for the 15 other TV and movie stars working in the country without the proper documents would be released next week.

He said the bureau had tried to accommodate Del Bianco and Montero in the past so they could "update their status with the bureau."

"But they have not complied with the bureau's requirements even when they were given all the chances to update their papers," Almoro said. "So now we are going after them."

He said that a few years ago, the stars applied for recognition as Filipino citizens but "they could not justify the information on their birth certificates." Since then, they have not applied for working visas to justify their stay in the country.

Del Bianco is a contract star of ABS-CBN and has been one of the hosts of its noontime show "Magandang Tanghali Bayan." She stopped hosting "MTB" last week.

An ABS-CBN insider said the network is helping Del Bianco secure a permit so she can continue working in the country.

Troy is the current image model of Swatch Bijoux. His show biz career is managed by Deo Endrinal who also handles those of Pops Fernandez and Kris Aquino.

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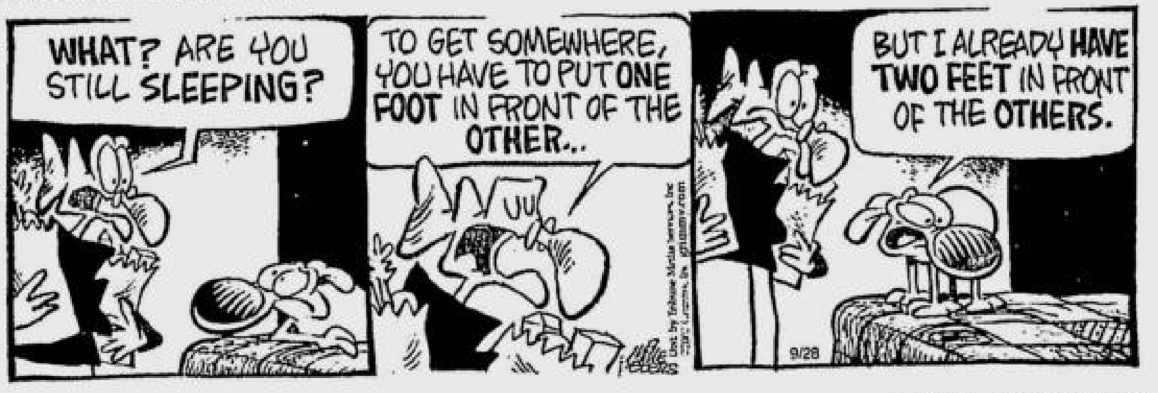
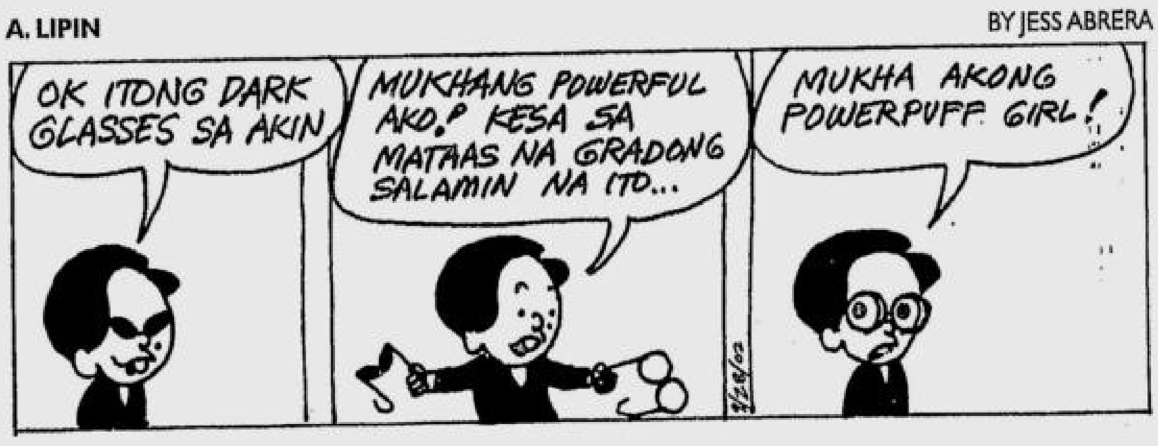
BY MIKE PETERS


WHAT? ARE YOU STILL SLEEPING?
TO GET SOMEWHERE, YOU HAVE TO PUT ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER...
BUT I ALREADY HAVE TWO FEET IN FRONT OF THE OTHERS.
9/28

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


OK ITONG DARK GLASSES SA AKIN
MUKHANG POWERFUL AKO.? KESA SA MATAAS NA GRADONG SALAMIN NA ITO...
MUKHA AKONG POWERPUFF GIRL!
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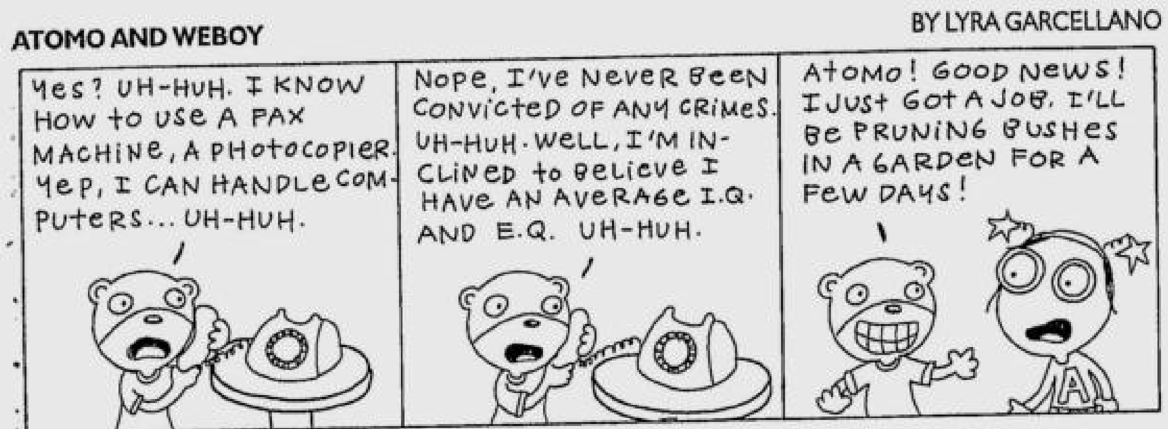
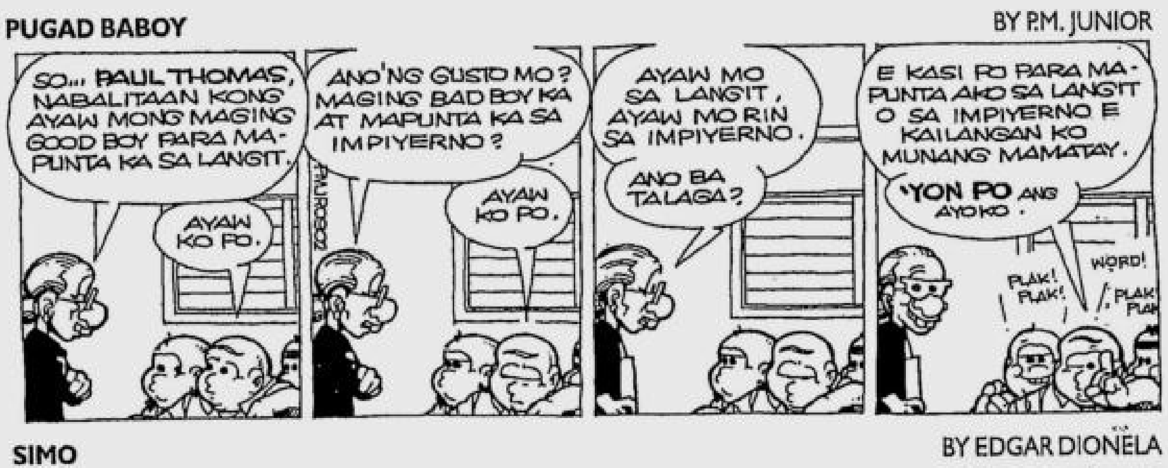
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Yes? UH-HUH. I KNOW HOW to USE A FAX MACHINE, A PHOtocopier. Yep, I CAN HANDLE COMPUTERS... UH-HUH.
Nope, I've Never Been Convicted OF ANY CRIMES. UH-HUH. WELL, I'M INCLINED to Believe I HAVE AN AVERAGE I.Q. AND E.Q. UH-HUH.
Atomo! Good News! I Just Got A JOB. I'LL Be PRUNING BUSHES IN A GARDEN FOR A Few DAYS!

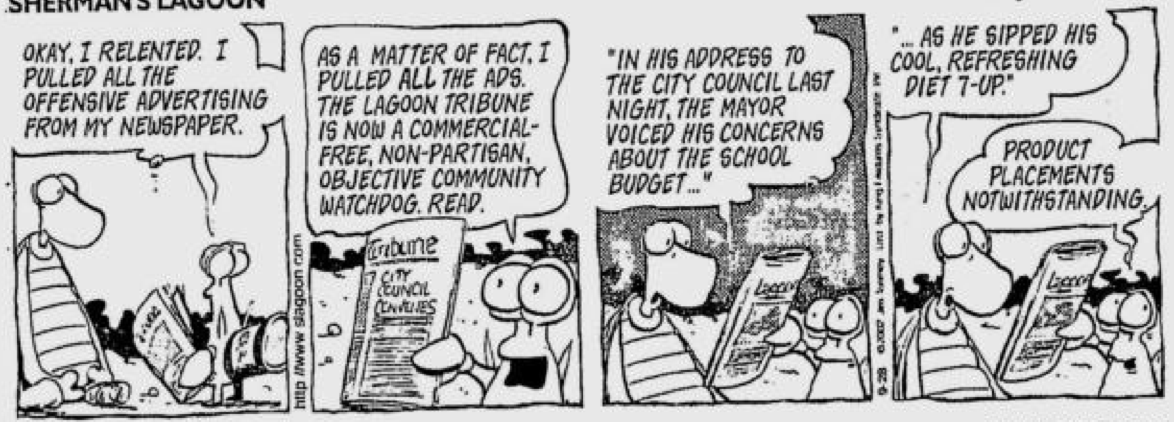
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SO... PAUL THOMAS, NABALITAAN KONG AYAW MONG MAGING GOOD BOY PARA MAPUNTA KA SA LANGIT.
AYAW KO PO.
ANO'NG GUSTO MO? MAGING BAD BOY KA AT MAPUNTA KA SA IMPIYERNO?
AYAW KO PO.
AYAW MO SA LANGIT, AYAW MO RIN SA IMPIYERNO.
ANO BA TALAGA?
E KASI PO PARA MAPUNTA AKO SA LANGIT O SA IMPIYERNO E KAILANGAN KO MUNANG MAMATAY.
'YON PO ANG AYOKO.
PLAK! PLAK!
WORD!
PLAK! PLAK!

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY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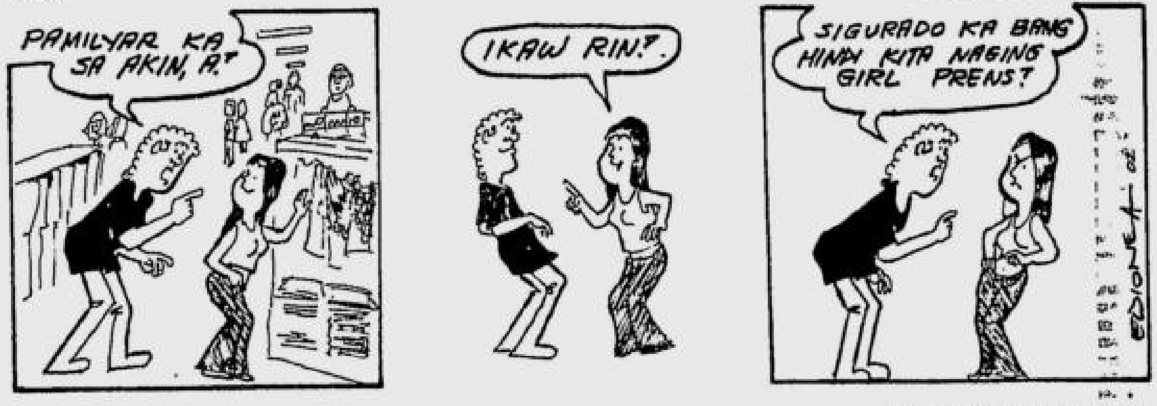
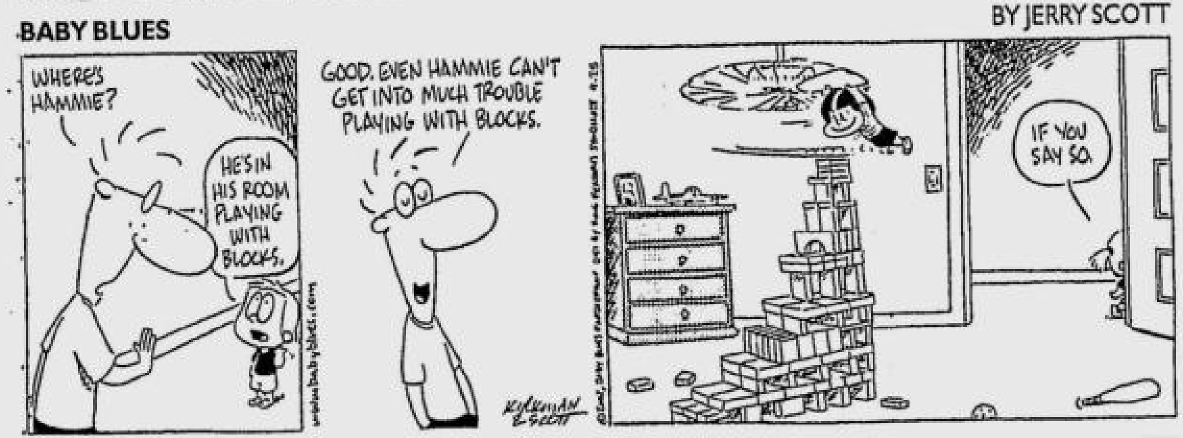

PAMILYAR KA SA AKIN, A?
IKAW RIN?
SIGURADO KA BANG HINDI KITA NAGING GIRL PRENS?
EDIONELA 02

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHERE'S HAMMIE?
HE'S IN HIS ROOM PLAYING WITH BLOCKS.
GOOD. EVEN HAMMIE CAN'T GET INTO MUCH TROUBLE PLAYING WITH BLOCKS.
IF YOU SAY SO.
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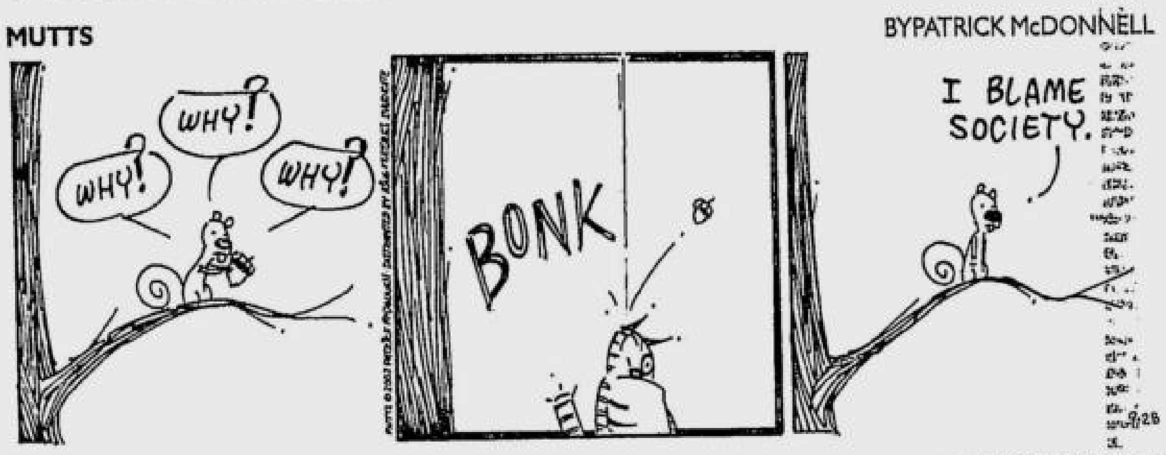
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHY?
WHY?
WHY?
BONK
I BLAME SOCIETY.
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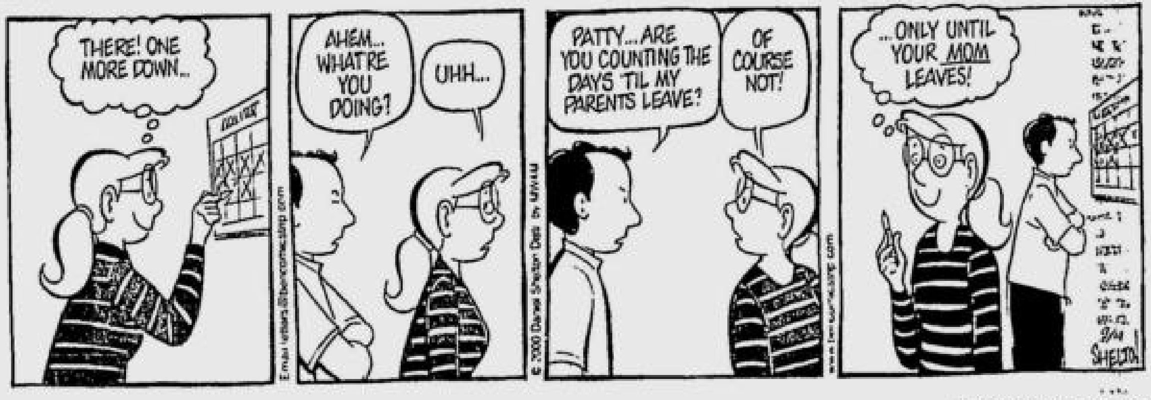
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THERE! ONE MORE DOWN...
AHEM... WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
UHH...
PATTY... ARE YOU COUNTING THE DAYS 'TIL MY PARENTS LEAVE?
OF COURSE NOT!
...ONLY UNTIL YOUR MOM LEAVES!
SHELTON

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brigitte Bardot, Gwyneth Paltrow, Mira Sorvino, Janeane Garofalo

Happy Birthday: You may be a little too critical with yourself and others this year. Remember that enjoyment should be a big part of living. Emotional matters may not be easy to deal with, but if you are willing to compromise and communicate, you will find it much easier to get along. You are fair and see all sides of a situation. Your numbers are 6, 14, 27, 31, 38, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Love will be powerful today. You and the one you love will be drawn to each other. If you are single, you stand a good chance of meeting someone terrific if you travel or join an interest group.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Avoid staying at home today. Someone you live with will be difficult. You will do far better with colleagues than you will with relatives. Putting in overtime will pay off.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may want to hold back even if you are feeling emotional about what someone you care about is doing. It could hurt your relationship if you try to change this person's mind. Be prepared to help when asked.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Making a residential move or changes to the place where you currently live will be beneficial. Don't do things that may endanger your health.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be intrigued by different cultures and philosophies when traveling. The more you can discover, the more engrossed you will become. Your attitude, opinion and lifestyle are ready for a change.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may have been moving in the wrong direction for the wrong reason. You must follow your own dreams and not someone else's. Put yourself first and turn things around.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your contribution to an intellectual group you belong to will lead to greater popularity. A unique approach will not only fascinate someone, it will capture someone's interest in you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Taking care of a parent or grandparent may lead to some interesting information about your background. Have patience and listen to what this person has to tell you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll have trouble containing your emotions today. Love is likely, but expect opposition from some of your relatives. If you are in a relationship this will be a make-it or break-it day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may want to put in some overtime. Use your knowledge and know-how to get the work done. Advancement can be yours if you're willing to go the extra mile.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Love is evident today, so be prepared to take advantage of it. Do something nice for the one you love. If you are single, a kind gesture to someone who attracts your attention will lead to an interesting new relationship.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Overspending on luxury items for your home will be your downfall. You are likely to become upset with an older family member. Try to be patient and forgiving.

Birthday Baby: You will be gracious, charming and a little bit possessive. You will want to experience everything that life has to offer. You will be dedicated, loyal and spontaneous.

DAILY CROSSWORD

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33 Year in Lisbon
34 Throat guardian
36 What cons do
37 Hide processors
39 Military rank
41 External: pref.
42 Ore of lead
44 Those elected
45 British gun
46 Colonial black cuckoos
47 Botch
49 Leg joint
50 Chinese gambling game
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55 __ volente
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61 Saharan
62 Itemized analyses
63 Look after
64 With bated breath
65 On pins and needles

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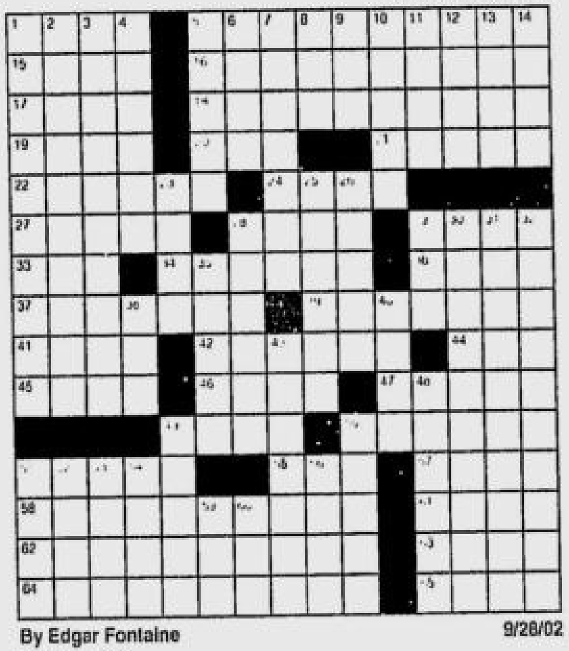
4 "__ 17"
5 Manufactures
6 Part of USMA
7 Sea nymphs
8 __ been had!
9 Marsh
10 Perform
11 Normandy town
12 City south of Moscow
13 Hershiser of baseball
14 Without
23 Memory method
25 Pizza portions
26 Synthetic fiber
28 Mad
29 Ear: pref.
30 Performed the functions of a cleric
31 Making textual corrections
32 Jeanette MacDonald's partner
35 Body part
38 Persona __ grata
40 Tibetan monk
43 Do little or nothing
48 Prisoner
49 Scots' churches
50 "All That Jazz" director
51 Dextrous beginner?
52 Bereft
53 Caesar's last date?
54 Suitor
56 Sea fliers
59 General work of a computer
60 Digit on the line?



By Edgar Fontaine
Dighton, MA

9/28/02

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	A	B	■	H	O	V	E	■	U	P	P	E	R
L	A	R	A	■	O	P	E	L	■	S	O	L	V	E
I	C	O	N	■	T	O	N	E	■	A	G	A	I	N
M	O	O	N	S	T	R	U	C	K	■	O	N	C	E
■	■	■	S	H	U	T	E	■	R	E	S	E	T	S
W	A	S	■	O	B	O	■	M	I	N	T	■	■	■
I	B	I	S	E	S	■	P	O	S	T	I	N	G	S
N	I	G	H	T	■	A	B	E	■	E	C	O	L	I
G	E	N	E	R	A	L	S	■	I	N	K	P	O	T
■	■	■	E	E	L	S	■	A	R	T	■	E	W	E
T	O	U	P	E	E	■	A	L	O	E	S	■	■	■
E	R	N	S	■	C	L	E	A	N	S	L	A	T	E
A	L	I	K	E	■	A	R	N	O	■	O	L	I	N
M	O	T	I	F	■	H	A	I	R	■	B	O	N	D
S	P	E	N	T	■	E	L	S	E	■	S	E	A	S

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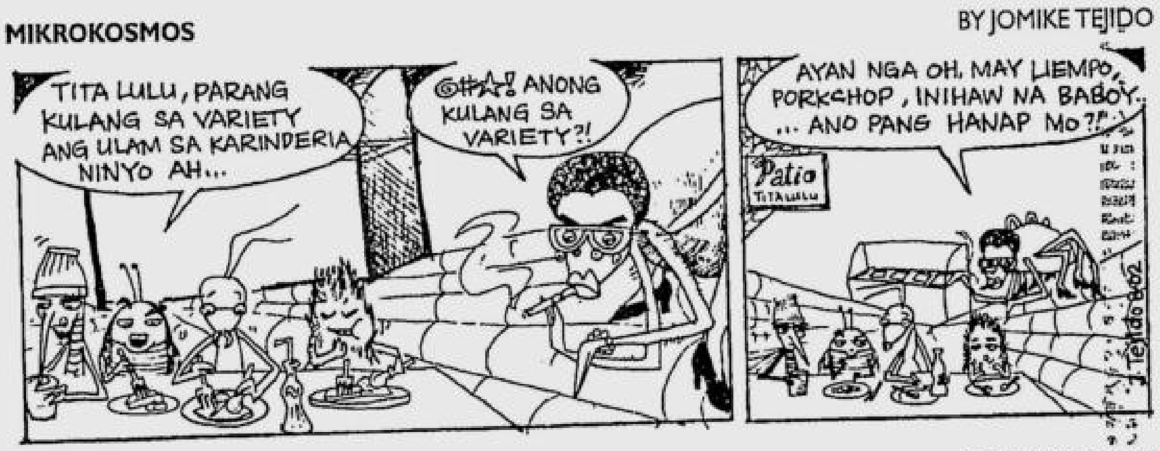
9/28/02

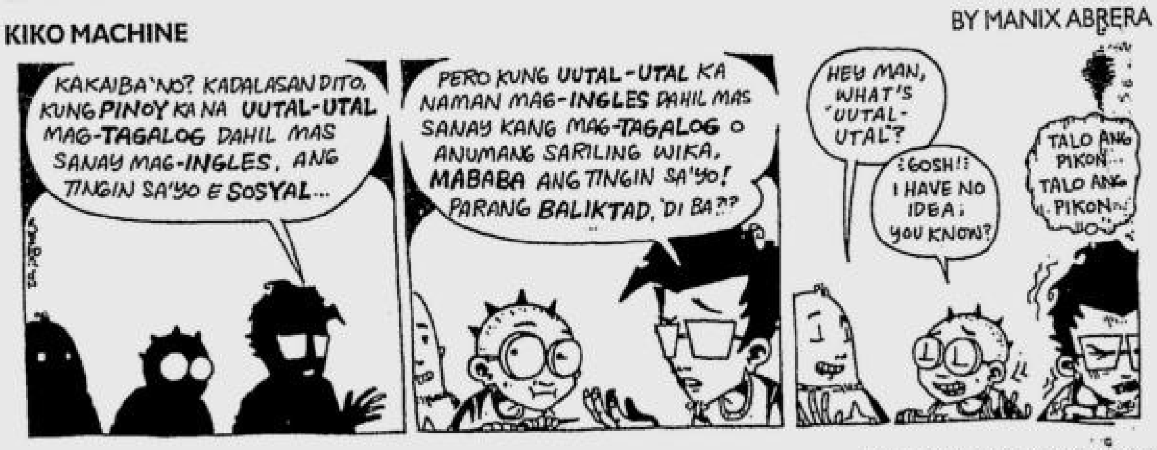
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TITA LULU, PARANG KULANG SA VARIETY ANG ULAM SA KARINDERIA NINYO AH...
@#☆! ANONG KULANG SA VARIETY?!
AYAN NGA OH, MAY LIEMPO, PORKCHOP, INIHAW NA BABOY... ANO PANG HANAP MO?!
Patio TITA LULU
Tejido

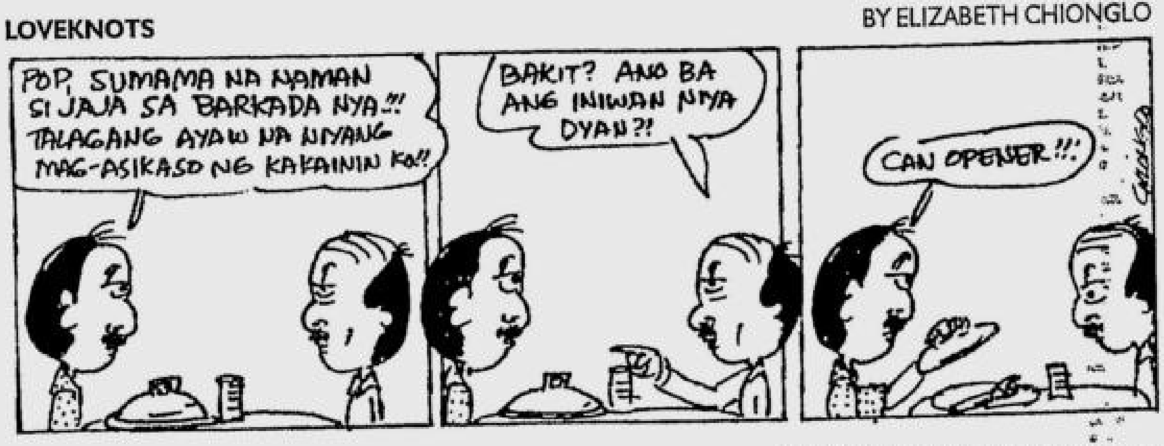
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KAKAIBA 'NO? KADALASAN DITO, KUNG PINOY KA NA UUTAL-UTAL MAG-TAGALOG DAHIL MAS SANAY MAG-INGLES, ANG TINGIN SA'YO E SOSYAL...
PERO KUNG UUTAL-UTAL KA NAMAN MAG-INGLES DAHIL MAS SANAY KANG MAG-TAGALOG O ANUMANG SARILING WIKA, MABABA ANG TINGIN SA'YO! PARANG BALIKTAD, 'DI BA?!
HEY MAN, WHAT'S "UUTAL-UTAL"?
¡GOSH!! I HAVE NO IDEA; YOU KNOW?
TALO ANG PIKON... TALO ANG PIKON...

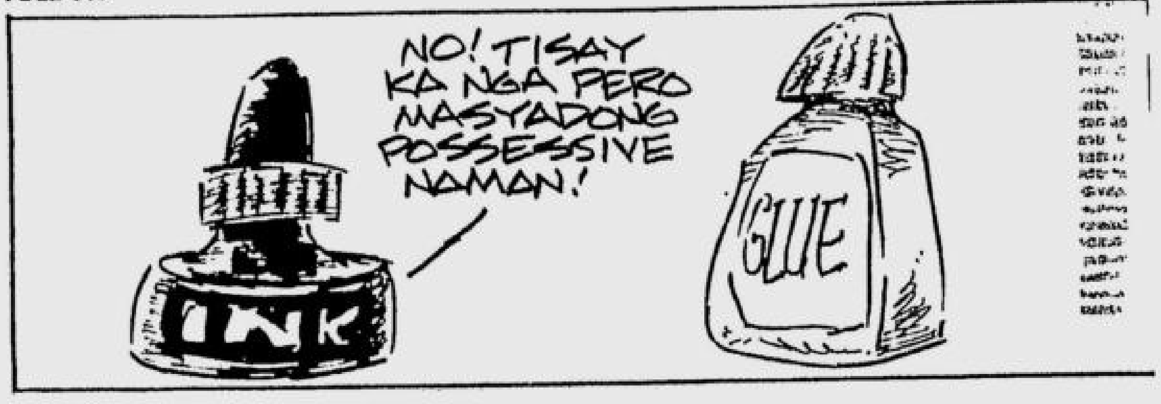
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


POP, SUMAMA NA NAMAN SI JAJA SA BARKADA NYA!!! TALAGANG AYAW NA NIYANG MAG-ASIKASO NG KAKAININ KO!!
BAKIT? ANO BA ANG INIWAN NIYA DYAN?!
CAN OPENER!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NO! TISAY KA NGA PERO MASYADONG POSSESSIVE NAMAN!
INK
GLUE

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"..SUSPENSEFUL.."
Mick LaSalle, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
JENNIFER LOPEZ
ENOUGH
ures.com

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But the dream turns into a nightmare when Mitch becomes unfaithful, and starts abusing her physically and emotionally'. He expects her to accept his beating and cheating. "I'm the man," Slim's husband declares. "I work and bring home the money, so I make the rules."

Slim has had enough. With her friend Ginny's (JULIETTE LEWIS) help, she escapes with Gracie. Pursued by an increasingly dangerous husband, she prepares to fight back with all her might.

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4 GOLD(DTS) ROAD TO PERDITION
5 GOLD(DOLBY) K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
6 GOLD(SDDS) SPY KIDS - 2
7 GOLD(DOLBY) ENOUGH
8 REVELATION
9 BOURN IDENTITY
10 REIGN OF FIRE

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1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
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1 VAN WILDER
2 VOODOO
3 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) SPY KIDS - 2
5 TUKAAN

METROPOLIS star
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1 VAN WILDER
2 TUKAAN
3 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
4 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
5 SPY KIDS - 2
6 ENOUGH
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13

SEPT 25 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
TIME 6:20, 8:55, 11:25
SEPT 26-27 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
TIME 6:20, 8:55
SEPT 28-29 SPY KIDS 2
TIME 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10 PM
SEPT 30 K-19 THE TUXEDO
TIME 7:30 PM

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 BOURN IDENTITY
2 SIGNS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
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1
2 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
3

Sunshine
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2 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
3 PORNOGRAPHER
4

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Gotesco City
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4 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
5 REVELATION
6 VOODOO
7 (DTS) ENOUGH
8 (SDDS) REIGN OF FIRE
9 (DOLBY) K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER

Gotesco Caloocan
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2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
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1 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
2 TUKAAN
3 SPY KIDS-2
4 (SDDS) REIGN OF FIRE
5 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
6 (DOLBY) ENOUGH
7 (DTS) SPY KIDS-2
8 VOODOO
9 JOLOGS

Gotesco Commonwealth
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4 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
5 (SDDS) SPY KIDS-2
6 (DTS) KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
7 (DOLBY) ENOUGH
8 SPY KIDS-2

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1 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
2 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
3 (DTS) SPY KIDS-2
4 TUKAAN
5 (SDDS) ENOUGH

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1 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS

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MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
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1 SPY KIDS-2
2 ENOUGH
3 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
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1 (DOLBY) SPY KIDS-2
2 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
3 RESERVE
4 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
5 ENOUGH

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 AUTIN POWER
2 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242/8400

1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 BOURNE IDENTITY
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) ENOUGH
4 (SDDS) K19
5 (DTS) SPYKIDS 2
6 VOODOO
7 ROAD TO PERDITION

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
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1 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
2 VOODOO

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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1 ENOUGH
2 SPY KIDS-2
3 (DTS) K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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1 HIGH RISK
2 (DTS) SPY KIDS-2
3 (DOLBY) K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
4 ENOUGH

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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1 ENOUGH
2 (DOLBY) SPY KIDS-2
3 (DTS) K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
4 SIMONE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 AUSTIN POWER
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 DERAILED
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
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1 BIGLANG LIKO
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 (DOLBY) SIMONE
4 (DTS) VAN WILDER

Magic Star Cinema
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1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 DIVINE SECRET
3 BIGLANG LIKO

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
2 BUKO PANDAN
3 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
4 DESADE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
2 HIGH RISK
3 (DTS) SPY KIDS-2
4 TUKAAN
5 ENOUGH

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 SPY KIDS-2
2 ENOUGH
3 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER

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1 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
2 SPY KIDS-2
3 ENOUGH

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233

1 SPIDER
2 HIGH RISK
3 SIMONE
4 SPY KIDS-2

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) DERAILED
2 (DTS)

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 TUKAAN
2 ROAD TO PERDITION
3 HIGH RISK

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 TUKAAN
2 ROAD TO PERDITION
3 SIMONE
4 REIGN OF FIRE

Jade Cinema
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1 (DOLBY) K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
2 DIVINE SECRET
3 (DTS) ENOUGH
4 THE ROOKIE

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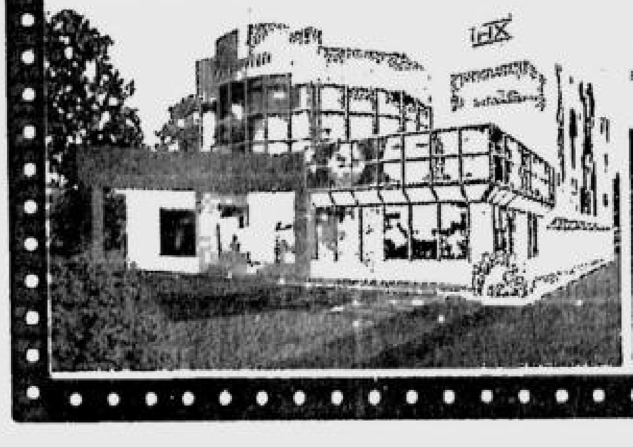

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K★19
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1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 REVELATION
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 ENOUGH
5 K-19
6 ENOUGH
7 KAPAG ANG PALAY
8 VOODOO

SM CENTERPOINT
7149622 -7161416

1 K-19
2 VAN WILDER
3 ENOUGH
4 KAPAG ANG PALAY...
5 SPY KIDS 2
6 VOODOO
7 REIGN OF FIRE
8 REVELATION
9 ROAD TO PERDITION
10 THE BOURNE IDENTITY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 KAPAG ANG PALAY...
2 VAN WILDER
3 REIGN OF FIRE
4 K-19
5 ROAD TO PERDITION
6 SPY KIDS 2
7 SPY KIDS 2
8 ENOUGH
9 TUKAAN
10 REVELATION
11 JOLOGS
12 VOODOO

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 K-19
2 ROAD TO PERDITION
3 REVELATION
4 ENOUGH
5 REIGN OF FIRE
6 SPY KIDS 2
7 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
8 VAN WILDER
9 SPY KIDS 2
10 VOODOO
11 SIMONE
12 KAPAG ANG PALAY...

SM MEGAMALL
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1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 K-19
3 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4 ENOUGH
5 VAN WILDER
6 IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE
7 JOLOGS
8 ROAD TO PERDITION
9 SPY KIDS 2
10 VOODOO
11 KAPAG ANG PALAY...
12 REVELATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 REVELATION
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 KAPAG ANG PALAY...
4 VAN WILDER
5 ENOUGH
6 ROAD TO PERDITION
7 K-19
8 SPY KIDS 2

SM SOUTHMALL
8096888

1 VOODOO
2 ROAD TO PERDITION
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 ENOUGH
5 VAN WILDER
6 TUKAAN
7 SPY KIDS 2
8 K-19
9 REIGN OF FIRE
10 KAPAG ANG PALAY...

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 LITTLE MERMAID BALLET PRESENTATION
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 DIVINE SECRETS OF...
5 SIGNS
6 HIGH RISK
7 AUSTIN POWERS
8 K-19

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 TUKAAN
2 CLOSED
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 AUSTIN POWERS
5 DIVINE SECRETS OF...
6 REIGN OF FIRE
7 CLOSED
8 HIGH RISK

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 K-19
2 VAN WILDER
3 REIGN OF FIRE
4 ENOUGH
5 DIVINE SECRETS OF...
6 SPY KIDS 2

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 SPY KIDS 2
3 K-19
4 ENOUGH

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 K-19
2 KAPAG ANG PALAY...
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 ENOUGH

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 K-19
2 DIVINE SECRETS OF ...
3 AUSTIN POWERS
4 DERAILED
5 SPY KIDS 2
6 REIGN OF FIRE

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8076

1 SPY KIDS 2
10:40 FS/11:00 MF/1:00/3:00/5:00/7:00/ 9:00/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END

2 K-19: THE WIDOWMAKER
11:20 FS/11:40 MF/2:30/5:20/8:10/ 10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:25 END

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1 THX ENOUGH
11:10MF 1:45 4:20 6:55 9:20LMF 11:33END
2 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
3 VAN WILDER
4 REIGN OF FIRE
5 SPY KIDS2
6 ENOUGH
7 BOURNE IDENTITY
8 KWENTONG KAYUMANGGI ANIMATION FESTIVAL
9 SIMONE
10 ROAD TO PERDITION

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1 SPY KIDS 2
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 ROAD TO PERDITION
4 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
5 SPY KIDS 2
6 ENOUGH
7 VAN WILDER

Metro East - Marcos Hway
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1 VOODOO
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 VAN WILDER
4 SPY KIDS 2
5 ENOUGH
6 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
7 ROAD TO PERDITION
8 SIMONE

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
3 VAN WILDER
4 SPY KIDS 2
5 ENOUGH
6 ROAD TO PERDITION
7 VOODOO
8 REVELATION

Imus
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1 SPY KIDS 2
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
4 ENOUGH
5 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
6 REVELATION

Bacolod
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1 SPY KIDS 2
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 DERAILED
4 HIGH RISK
5 AUSTIN POWER 3
6 BAKAT

Iloilo
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1 SPY KIDS 2
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 HIGH RISK
4 DIVINE SECRETS...
5 AUTIN POWER 3
6 TUKAAN

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961- 5318 / 5270

1 DIVINE SECRETS...
2 VAN WILDER
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
5 ENOUGH
6 ENOUGH

malabon citisquare- soon to open.

ROAD TO PERDITION

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Man gets life for rape of barrio lass, 17

Agnes E. Donato

A QUEZON City judge yesterday sentenced another man to life imprisonment for raping a 17-year-old girl in Novaliches in June 1997.

Judge Evelyn Corpus-Cabochan found Elino de Vera guilty of rape, sentenced him to life in prison and ordered him to pay his victim P100,000 in civil indemnity and moral damages.

On Thursday, Corpus-Cabochan meted out a life term to a Bible teacher for raping his student.

Court records showed that the 17-year-old victim left Antique and went to Bulacan to take on odd jobs so she could save money for a college education.

Later she was forced to stay with her sister's family in an urban poor community in Novaliches because of health problems, records showed.

The rape took place on June 21,1997, two weeks after she arrived in the place.

The victim told the court she awoke at about 4 a.m. when she felt something heavy on her thighs. She then saw a naked man armed with a knife.

She said she recognized de Vera for he would always stare at her every time she went out of the house.

For his part, de Vera denied the allegations, saying he was in Antipolo when the supposed rape took place. He also claimed that the victim only wanted to get back at him because he dissuaded his sister from lending money to the victim's sister.

But Judge Corpus-Cabochan maintained that no young woman, "especially a barrio girl, new and innocent to the cruelty of life in the city, would concoct (such) a story ... and thereafter permit herself to be subjected to a public trial, if she is not motivated solely by the desire to bring her assailant to justice."

Revamp at WPD under way

By Philip Tubeza

SHAPE up in three months or ship out.

Newly promoted Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, Western Police District director, yesterday warned his men as he announced a major reshuffle that would affect all 11 Manila police stations.

"(The affected officials) were given a chance to perform within three months," said Senior Insp. Gerry Agunod, WPD spokesperson. "It will depend on the director what will happen after that."

Supt. Danilo Abarsoza was transferred from WPD Station 3 (Central Market) to Station 2 (Balut-Tondo), Supt. Bernardo Diaz from Station 2 to Station 4 (Sampaloc), Supt. Clifton Empiso was designated Station 6 (Sta. Ana) chief, replacing Supt. Co Yee M. Co, who was transferred to Station 8 (Sta. Mesa).

Former Sta. Mesa police chief Supt. Frumento Villareal is now the WPD directorial staff chief. Supt. Hospicio Guevarra was named Station 7 (Jose Abad Santos) chief. Supt. Gorgonio Rosero was assigned to Station 5 (Ermita), replacing Supt. Manolo Martinez, who went back to Station 9 (Malate).

Former Malate chief Supt. Ramon De Jesus was named Station 10 (Pandacan) chief, replacing Supt. Efren Perez, who was transferred to Station 11 (Meisic). Supt. Elmer Jamias was assigned to Station 2 (Moriones-Tondo).

At headquarters, Supt. Fernando Robles was named disaster management unit chief, Supt. Melvin Mongcal as operations and plans chief, Chief Insp. Renato Muyot as chief of the Criminal Investigation Division Unit, Senior Insp. Leopoldo Mangilinan was named chief of the Theft and Robbery Section, and Insp. Benjamin Reyes as head of the anti-carnapping unit.

"The district director said he does not want to have this kind of turnover again, so they should all perform well," Agunod said.

MANILA policemen look over the body of suspected robber Domingo Sacdalan, who was killed in an alleged shootout with lawmen at the corner of Fidel and Callejon streets in Tondo.
ERIK ARAZAS

QC painter stabbed over choice of appetizers

By Alcuin Papa

A DRINKING binge in Quezon City on Wednesday night turned into a bloody affair when a house painter was stabbed dead by his own cousin after the two argued over their choice of appetizers.

Police identified the victim as Federico Revilla, 34, of Barangay Damayang Lagi, Quezon City.

Revilla was declared dead on arrival at the De Los Santos Hospital due to multiple stab wounds in the chest, police said.

Quezon City investigators are now looking for suspect Aldrin dela Quadra who managed to escape after the incident.

According to investigator PO2 Joseph Dino of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit, the incident occured at around 8 p.m. a few meters away from where the victim lived.

Revilla, the suspect and some of their friends were having a drink when the cousins began arguing over what food to eat, police said.

The two then started to insult each other, until the suspect pulled out an icepick and stabbed the victim repeatedly, PO2 Dino said.

As the victim was being rushed to the hospital, the victim made his escape.

Police are now hunting down dela Quadra, Dino added.

Tondo robber killed in rice dealer heist

FOUR armed men, all wearing dark sunglasses, robbed for the second time this month a rice dealer's store in Tondo, Manila.

But this time, bystanders and policemen ran after them, killing one of the culprits and arresting another, said SP02 Steve Casimiro, of the Western Police District-homicide section.

Police identified the dead man as Domingo Sakdalan, 30, of Imus, Cavite.

The robber was shot dead after a 20-minute chase that started at the Rising Sun Dealer's store on Cavite corner T. Mapua streets in Tondo, and ended at the Manila-Caloocan boundary.

A certain P02 Mempin of WPD Station 1, shot Sakdalan when he allegedly tried to resist arrest. Barangay officials arrested Sakdalan's cohort, Brucelee Caraballes of Cavite, Casimiro said.

Investigators are still trying to find out the amount the robbers took from Rising Sunrise.

Store owner Rosalina Tan told police that when the robbers returned at around 10:15 a.m. yesterday, she recognized Sakdalan despite his sunglasses.

"I was surprised and blurted out invectives," Tan said. "But it was already too late because they took me into the store."

The suspects, armed with .38-caliber revolvers, took the victims' money and fled.

Tricycle driver Melanio Paig, 34, said he and other drivers went after the suspects.

At the corner of G. De Jesus and Dagupan Streets, the three robbers got out of the jeep and were greeted by an angry mob, who caught up with Caraballes and beat him up.

Sakdalan ran and was cornered on Earnshaw and Fidel streets, where Mempin was forced to fire on him. *Philip Tubeza*

Group to oversee scaledown of oil depot operations

By Jerome Aning

ATIENZA

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza has created a task force that would oversee the scaling down of operations of the three big oil firms at the Pandacan fuel depot.

The new body, created in an executive order which Atienza signed on Sept. 20, will be under city administrator and former councilor Ernesto Dionisio.

The other members of the task force are city engineer Magdiwang Recato, city electrician Ernesto Cuyugan, Western Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong and city fire marshal Pablito Cordeta.

Under the memorandum of understanding signed with City Hall on June 26, oil firms Petron, Caltex and Shell agreed to reduce their operations by as much as 40 percent.

City Hall originally planned to shut down the depot, but changed its mind when the oil firms warned of a possible fuel supply shortage and price hikes.

The MOU tasks the three oil firms to dismantle 28 storage tanks containing the most hazardous petroleum products, such as aviation gas and liquefied petroleum gas.

The oil companies also agreed to set up a common depot and to create a "green" buffer zone around the facility to protect surrounding communities.

The dismantling of the tanks is ongoing while work on the green buffer zone—which is actually a park—is set to start within the next few weeks.

The oil firms have received the architectural plan from Palafox & Associates, the urban planning agency commissioned to design the park.

Atienza directed the task force to report to him as soon as possible the progress of the oil firms' fulfillment of their commitments under the MOU.

"I want to make sure that the city government is on top of things and I expect the task force to submit a report as soon as they have concrete findings," Atienza said.

The city government extended the permits to operate of the three oil firms until the end of the year, during which they have to fulfill the MOU's provisions.

Atienza earlier told reporters that if the three oil firms failed to meet their obligations, he would revoke the MOU and enforce an ordinance providing the closure of the depot.

Congressman's men nabbed for unpaid karaoke bill

TWO BURLY men who identified themselves as bodyguards of a congressman were arrested yesterday for not paying their bill at a Quezon City karaoke bar.

Police identified the two suspects as Christopher Abillar, 26, and Alredo Vinegas, 26.

The two men claimed they were personal bodyguards of "Congressman Ruben Torres."

According to the report of SPO4 Alfredo Garcia, after Abillar and Vinegas were finished drinking at around 1:45 a.m. yesterday at the Aileen Videoke Restaurant on Quirino Highway, Tandang Sora, Barangay Talipapa, they stood up from their table and left without paying their bill.

Employees of the establishment ran after them. But the suspects angrily identified themselves as bodyguards of the congressman, said SPO4 Garcia of the Sangandaan Police Station.

The two even overturned some tables in the establishment and smashed a beer bottle on the head of waiter Villamor Asita, 25, of Saint Michael Subdivision, Meycauayan, Bulacan, police said.

This prompted the other employees to call the police who promptly arrived and arrested the two suspects. *Alcuin Papa*

NGO addresses key communication issues

WHAT opens the gates to media for non-government organizations in the country? Is the task of doing media relations merely the task of the information officer or is it the responsibility of the NGO executive director as well?

These questions will be answered when Policy Review and Editorial Services (Press) will hold a one-day executive training on Media Relations on Oct. 4.

Press is an NGO committed to assist other NGOs in addressing their communication challenges.

The training-workshop is aimed at giving NGO executive officers, or the so-called gatekeepers, a glimpse on how the media works and, in the process, bridge the world-view gap between media and civil society.

Resource speakers include veteran journalists like Philippine Daily Inquirer columnist Conrado de Quiros, Philippine STAR senior political reporter Sammy Santos and Malou Mangahas of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ).

The speakers will talk about media culture, the common errors committed by NGOs when dealing with media and the kind of stories that attract media attention, among other topics.

The training-workshop will be held at Press' office at the Philippine Cooperative Center Building, 90 Balete Drive Extension, Quezon City.

Those interested may call 721-6381 or (0917) 522-1065.

Beaten up by a faggot

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

ANOTHER very important person (VIP) will soon be jailed while his extradition case is being heard by the Manila Regional Trial Court. He is Manila Rep. Mark B. Jimenez, a fugitive from justice in the United States.

Jimenez is facing tax evasion, fraud and other criminal charges in the US, with whom we have an extradition treaty.

The Supreme Court has ruled that the Manila congressman, who was a former adviser to deposed President Erap, should be in jail until the lower court decides whether he should be extradited or not.

* * *

Jimenez, a.k.a. Mario Batacan Crespo, has filed a petition with the lower court to stay his extradition. He posted a P1 million bail for his temporary liberty. That bail has been cancelled with the high court ruling.

The faster the Manila court decides on Jimenez's petition, the better it is for the country's good relations with the United States.

The delay in Jimenez's extradition has been an irritant between the RP-US relations.

* * *

Many citizens are wondering why Jimenez's extradition has been held in abeyance while others who were charged in US courts were immediately whisked off to the US to face trial.

Of course, the reason he was not extradited to the US during the Estrada administration was his closeness to Erap. To buttress his position that he is needed in the country, he ran for Congress and won. He probably spent a fortune to win that congressional seat.

But his high position in government should not be a shield from justice. We should fulfill our commitment to the US as they have been to us. Only then can we earn the respect of other nations.

* * *

It was very difficult deciding to write this item about Mark Jimenez who is a very likable fellow.

I don't know how he looks at me, but I consider Jimenez as a friend. I've been to his house in Forbes Park a couple of times to have lunch or dinner with him. We shared experiences. He gave me advice as I gave him mine on several topics and issues.

My friendship with him developed when, through me, he pledged a lifetime support to a Quezon City paralytic policeman. The cop was shot by a crime suspect who was being investigated in the cop's precinct years before. The policeman needed expensive maintenance medicines. I brought the paralytic policeman's plight to Jimenez who immediately wrote out a check for P20,000, the first of several that I understand he has issued to the cop.

* * *

A guy who helps people in dire need can't be all bad. Especially when the gesture is not a put-on. I think Jimenez's charitable acts are sincere.

That's why it hurts to write this piece about him.

But there are things higher than friendship. One of them is journalism, which happens to be my life's calling.

I think I would not be true to my calling if I defended Jimenez's continued stay in the country.

* * *

Some congressmen are challenging the Supreme Court's ruling canceling Jimenez bail. The bail cancellation paves the way for the Manila congressman's arrest and detention.

They can challenge the ruling all they want, but they should not block Jimenez's arrest. Blocking their colleague's arrest would be preventing the administration of justice.

And preventing the administration of justice is an impeachable offense.

* * *

The congressmen who plan to block Jimenez's arrest want to show the world that they're a power to reckon with. That they can also have all the justices of the high tribunal impeached. That they can hold the annual budget of the Supreme Court.

Mga p#^%$&* n'yo, kulang lang kayo sa pansin!

The Old Boys' Club mentality among members of the House of Representatives is in its element in the Jimenez extradition case.

* * *

Anybody who thinks there are no faggots within the Philippine National Police (PNP), should read on.

John Paul delos Santos, 18, was beaten up by two cops at the Police Community Precinct 16 in Caloocan City last week. His only fault was that he was wearing an earring when he came to the precinct to inquire if his friend was detained there. The cops were very drunk; they were having a drinking spree inside the precinct.

One of the cops, SPO1 Raymundo Yanuario, touched the young man's private parts while he and his companion, PO2 Jimmy Margarito, were mauling him.

* * *

Not content with beating up Delos Santos, Yanuario allegedly ordered the teenager to strip and masturbate in front of him.

The refusal of the young man to play with himself further infuriated Yanuario who mauled him some more. All the while, the teenager said Yanuario was at the same time touching his private parts.

Delos Santos was handcuffed and tied to a post inside the precinct. He was only untied after his parents came to the station and bribed the policemen P350 for his release.

Yanuario is a homosexual who hides under the macho image. He is a "closet queen." This kind of homosexual is ruthless and projects the image of being a womanizer because he wants to prove that he's as manly as the other guy.

2 Laguna coeds killed in 1 week

By Romulo Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAMBA CITY—Barely a week before the brutal death of Liezel Palma, a freshman of Laguna College and Arts (LCBA), another coed had been raped and killed on her way home from school.

Ryann Mamalayan, 20, a third year education student of LCBA and a resident of Barangay Burol in this city, was attacked two Mondays ago, said the city police chief, Senior. Supt. Generoso Calderon.

According to the Monday Mail community paper, Mamalayan was walking in a dark, grassy and unpopulated area on her way home when the assault happened. Police said Mamalayan's body was found about 7:30 p.m. She was clad only in panties, police added.

Police arrested farmer Raymundo Mamalayan, a cousin of Mamalayan, who later admitted committing the crime.

PO2 Arnold Gazo said investigators have invited for questioning three male friends of Palma.

According to reports, the young men are said to be members of the Gamma Sigma fraternity and one of them had allegedly been forcing Palma to join a sorority.

Police said they were getting the three young men's fingerprints and other items to match these with the fingerprints and hair strands found on Palma's body.

As of press time, the police were investigating Palma's friend who lives in Barangay Samperohan in this city who did not visit her wake.

Chief Inspector Emeliano Lirio of the City PNP Investigation Office said Palma had transferred to LCBA just two months ago from her former school in Biñan.

A Calamba Medical Center nurse, who was among those who tried to revive Palma when she was brought to the hospital, told the INQUIRER that the victim's neck bore marks of strangulation, her face was swollen and her head had been hit with a hard object.

The LCBA administration declared Thursday a school holiday to allow students and faculty members to attend the funeral of slain coed Palma.

The LCBA administration staff, faculty and students joined Palma's family and friends in a funeral caravan of more than 50 vehicles from her home in Kapayapaan Village in Canlubang, Calamba to the St. Joseph Parish Church for a 2 p.m. Mass and then to the Cabuyao town cemetery.

LCBA helped the victim's family in virtually all the expenses for the burial of the slain student, including paying for the coffin and other needs.

Karen Dalarea, 17, a classmate and close friend of the victim told the INQUIRER: "She did not give any sign that she was having any problem with anybody. She was really a very silent person. She even preferred to be alone most of the time."

Some male students, who admitted to be members or officers of a fraternity group, told the INQUIRER it was improbable that Palma's death was related to a sorority hazing.

"Even when a candidate is already going through the highest form of test, we would never harm her or his head or neck," one of them said.

The students were responding to radio and television reports that said Palma's death could be the result of hazing.

An LCBA professor said the school was also mourning the death of two other members of the community within a week.

Aside from Mamalayan and Palma, the school also lost Arlene Herrera, 46, a Social Science professor who died of cardiac arrest Tuesday last week, Albert Sureta, the husband of a faculty member, according to a professor.

Ex-cop, 5 others get...

From page A33

ber of the Western Police District who was dismissed from the service after he went AWOL in 1989, as well as Jaime Patio, Antonio Villarin, Teofilo Carillo, Jerry Fuentes and Chito Dalicano "guilty beyond reasonable doubt" of two counts of kidnapping for ransom.

In an 18-page decision, Judge Antonio also ordered the accused to pay P900,000 in moral damages to victims Mary C. Chan and her driver Rolando Oblena.

Judge Antonio acquitted Teresa Sabanal, a physical therapy student, after government prosecutors failed to prove her guilt.

"We are thankful to God and to the judge because our daughter was finally given the real justice she deserves," the acquitted woman's mother Teresita Sabanal, 50, said as she broke in tears after the promulgation. "She was with the accused only because they had hired her as their laundrywoman."

The court also said the testimonies of the victims did not show that Sabanal had an actual or direct participation in their abduction.

The court also cleared the six accused of illegal possession of firearms for lack of evidence even as several firearms, ammunition and explosives were reportedly seized from them during their arrest.

Court records show that Chan and her driver Oblena were on board a van when the group abducted them at about 7:30 p.m. of May 25, 1999 and brought them to the group's hideout on Dalagang Bukid Street in Navotas.

Members of the now-defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force arrested the accused five days later in their hideout.

In convicting the six, the court gave more weight to the evidence presented by the prosecution led by Albert Fonacier and Josepino Subia.

The judge noted the victims' positive identification of Fernandez, Fuentes, Patio and Carillo as the ones who blocked the path of their vehicle. They also identified Villarin and Dalicano as among those who guarded them during their abduction.

The judge said the defense of the accused, which was "merely alibi and denial," was "inherently weak and must be rejected."

The victims were not present when the verdict was read.

Members of the Citizens Action Against Crime Movement for Restoration of Peace and Order applauded the decision as another victory for the victims of heinous crimes.

EPD rounds up 30 suspects

By Alcuin Papa

MEMBERS of the Eastern Police District rounded up a total of 30 petty criminals, including two for rape and four for drug dealing, in operations in San Juan Marikina City and Pasig City.

Supt. Leonardo Espina, Marikina City chief of police, identified the two rape suspects as Rex Alipa, 30; and Ronald Llabora, 29.

They were caught at about 11 p.m. Wednesday along Spain Street in Fairlane, Marikina City.

Reports said a resident had called up the Marikina police to report the rape of a 12-year-old girl.

That same night, police arrested Archie Laurente, 21, and Alex Ong, 23, both of Marikina City, following a jeepney holdup on E. Rodriguez, Sto. Niño, in the same city.

Thursday, police caught four other suspected holdup men. They were Pepito Carles, 21; Randy Ponciano, 21; Roger Domdom, 30; and Ericson Roblando, 27.

Domdom and Roblando were also found carrying a sachet of shabu, police said.

Also Thursday, members of of the San Juan Police Drug Enforcement Unit arrested alleged drug pushers Humphrey Torres, 35, Romeo Consiguado, 61, Danilo Butoney, 23, and Edgardo Lumangaya.

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PLEB gets more powers

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE NATIONAL Police Commission has given more powers to the People's Law Enforcement Board, in effect strengthening the mayors' control over the local police.

The PLEB, which is under the local government unit, hears and resolves cases filed against erring police officers.

"The new Napolcom memorandum circular aims to give local chief executives and community leaders a substantial and more meaningful participation in the administrative supervision and control of the police, particularly in the area of discipline," Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina, who is also the Napolcom chair, said in a statement.

Memorandum Circular No. 2002-010 extends the term of office of PLEB members from two to three years, said Napolcom Vice Chair Rogelio Pureza. It also requires the inclusion of a female PLEB member in order to prevent gender and sexual discrimination during the hearing of cases against police officers, he added.

The PLEB's request for the preventive suspension of a police officer cannot be denied by the officer's superior in certain circumstances, said Napolcom legal affairs chief Verulo Mapanao.

The circumstances, said Mapanao, are when the accused police officer does not heed the PLEB's summons, when the officer has been charged with bodily harm or grave threats, and when the accused is in a position to tamper with evidence or unduly influence witnesses.

Specific penalties for various offenses are also prescribed in the memorandum, as well as the length of the pre-hearing conference and the notification of the respondent of the case against him, Pureza said.

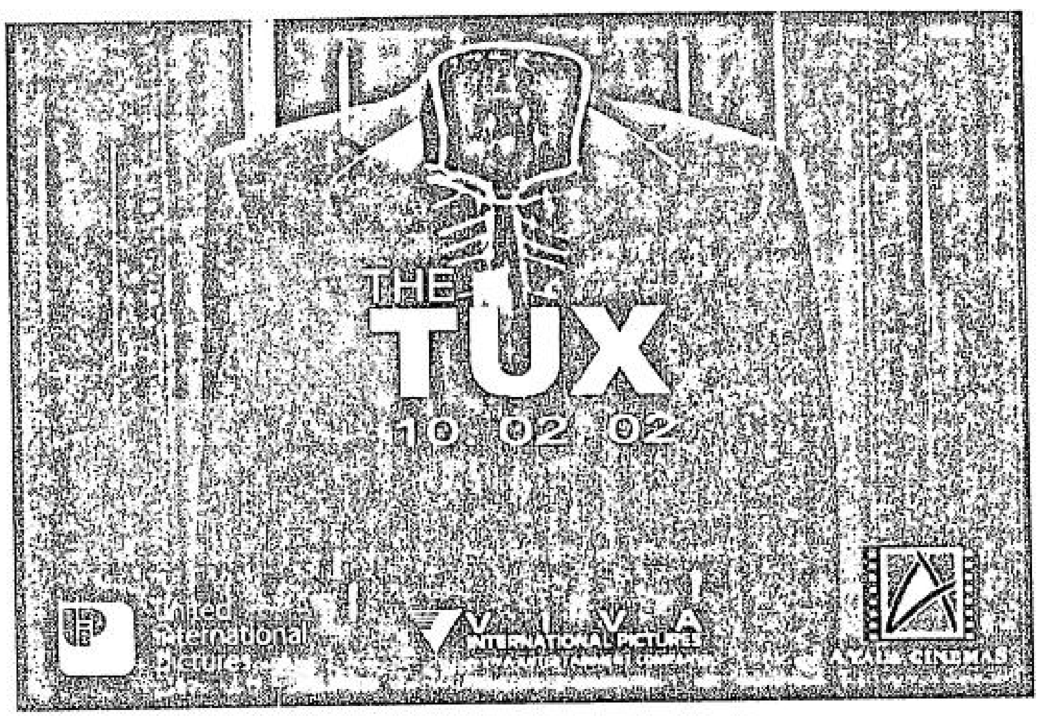
From 10 days, the pre-hearing conference has been shortened to five days from the receipt of the answer. The accused officer shall be notified of the complaint within three days instead of five.

Promotion for seven

SEVEN senior superintendents of the Philippine National Police have been recommended for promotion to chief superintendent, according to Rogelio Pureza, vice chairman of the National Police Commission.

The list of promoted officers, approved in an executive session on Tuesday, will be forwarded to Malacañang for the President's approval.

Recommended for promotion are Pedro Bulaong, director of the Western Police District; Medardo Apacible, Regional Office 4 acting director; Danilo Mangila, Traffic Management Group director; Teodorico Viduya, acting deputy director of the Directorate for Personnel and Records Management; Delfin Genio, deputy director for Human Resources and Doctrine Development; Claudio Cabreros, acting deputy regional director for operations of the National Capital Region Police Office; and Romeo Pagalilauan, acting deputy director of the Directorate for Logistics. The seven are all currently senior superintendents. *Leila B. Salaverria*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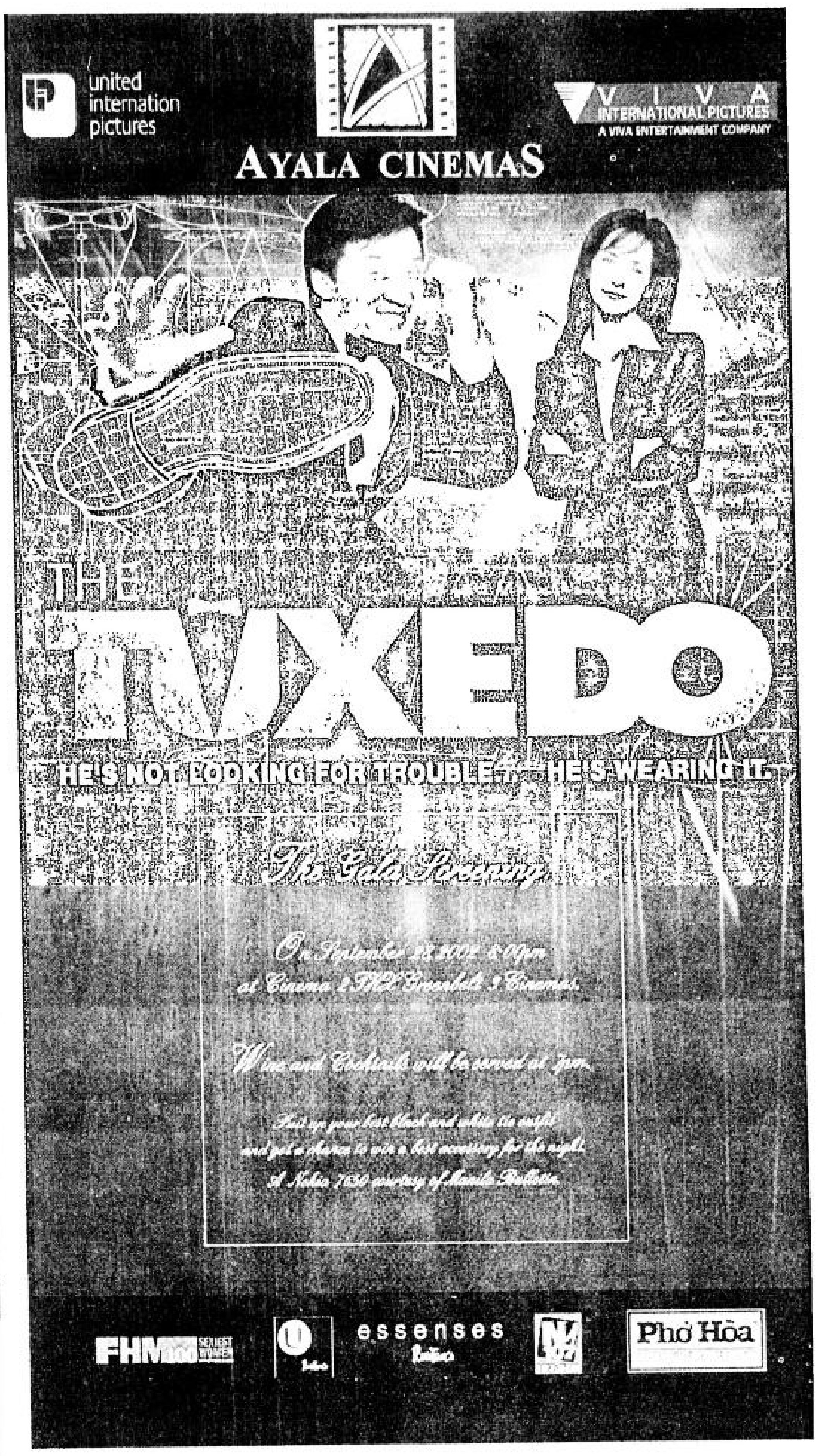
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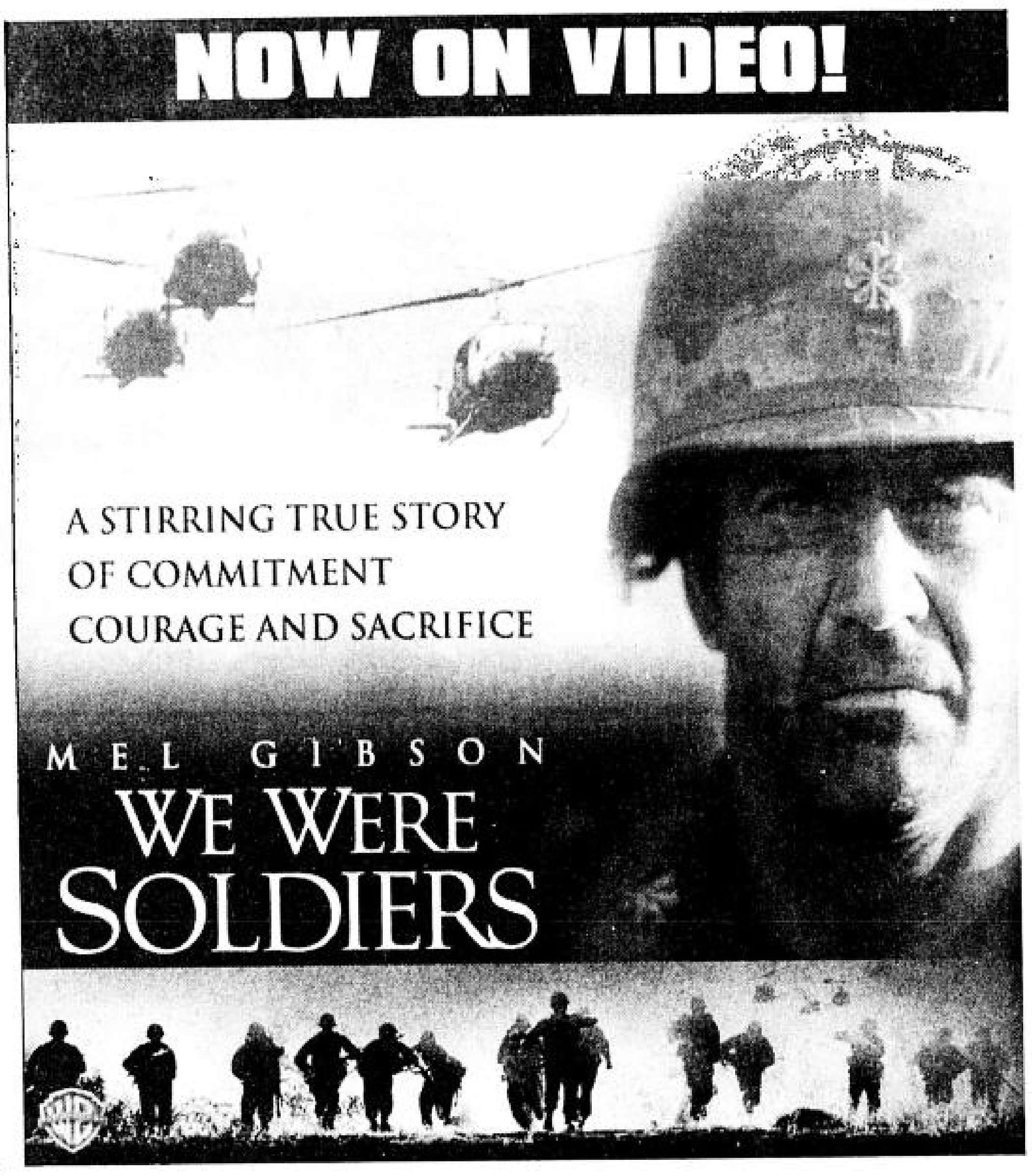
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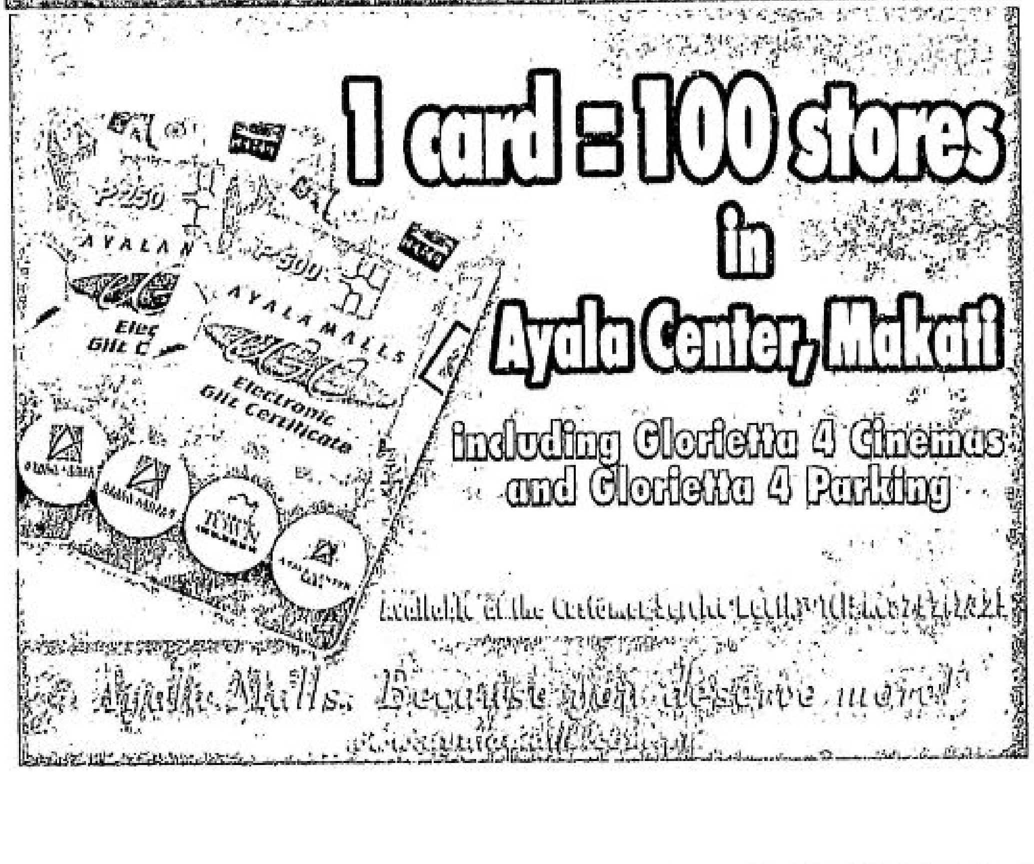
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P1 M worth of DVD movie masters seized

By Norman Bordadora

SOME P1 million worth of master copies of movies on digital video disk were seized by customs authorities at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday.

The master copies were in a checked-in luggage from a Malaysian Airlines flight from Kuala Lumpur, whose owner had abandoned after customs agents poured over the suspicious baggage.

"These could have been used to make thousands more of pirated DVD movies that could have easily flooded the local market," said Celso Templo, the customs chief at the Naia.

Authorities are looking for the passenger that brought in the master copies of pirated DVD movies.

Another piece of luggage, this time containing contraband medicines were seized from a certain Daniel Malicsi.

The medicines consisting of multivitamins and antibiotics, were brought in without approval from the Bureau of Food and Drug. They were flown in on a Korean Airlines flight.

Two women mourn vendor's death

By Agnes E. Donato and Leila Salaverria

SLAIN street vendor Eladio Tuacar had planned to buy at least a new piece of home appliance for his family this Christmas.

His widow Delia Tuacar yesterday told the INQUIRER at her husband's wake in Barangay Holy Spirit in Quezon City that his death would significantly change their family's life.

Tuacar was shot dead after he allegedly fired at a police officer during a clearing operations by the Metro Manila Development Authority on Tuesday in Makati City.

Mrs. Tuacar said she has been living in Bicol with most of their children while her husband, the breadwinner of the family, stayed in Manila by himself to earn a living.

She said she was shocked when she heard about her husband's death in the news. A text message to one of her grandchildren in Daet confirmed it. She packed her things at once and came to Manila, and her children will follow next week for the funeral.

"They wanted to come with me, but I told them to just attend the burial because there's no place her for them to stay," Mrs Tuacar said.

Bringing her husband's body for burial in Bicol was out of the question since her family could not afford the expense, she said.

She said that her husband had simple dreams for their seven children, three of whom are still unmarried and living with her and her grandchildren.

"All we wanted was to be able to send our grandchildren to school so they can learn to at least read and write. Now he's gone, and I don't know how we will start anew," she said.

Mrs. Tuacar also showed reporters that the slain vendor had a license and a permit to carry the gun he had at the time of his death. His license is valid until August next year.

Mrs. Tuacar blamed MMDA chair Bayani Fernando for her husband's death.

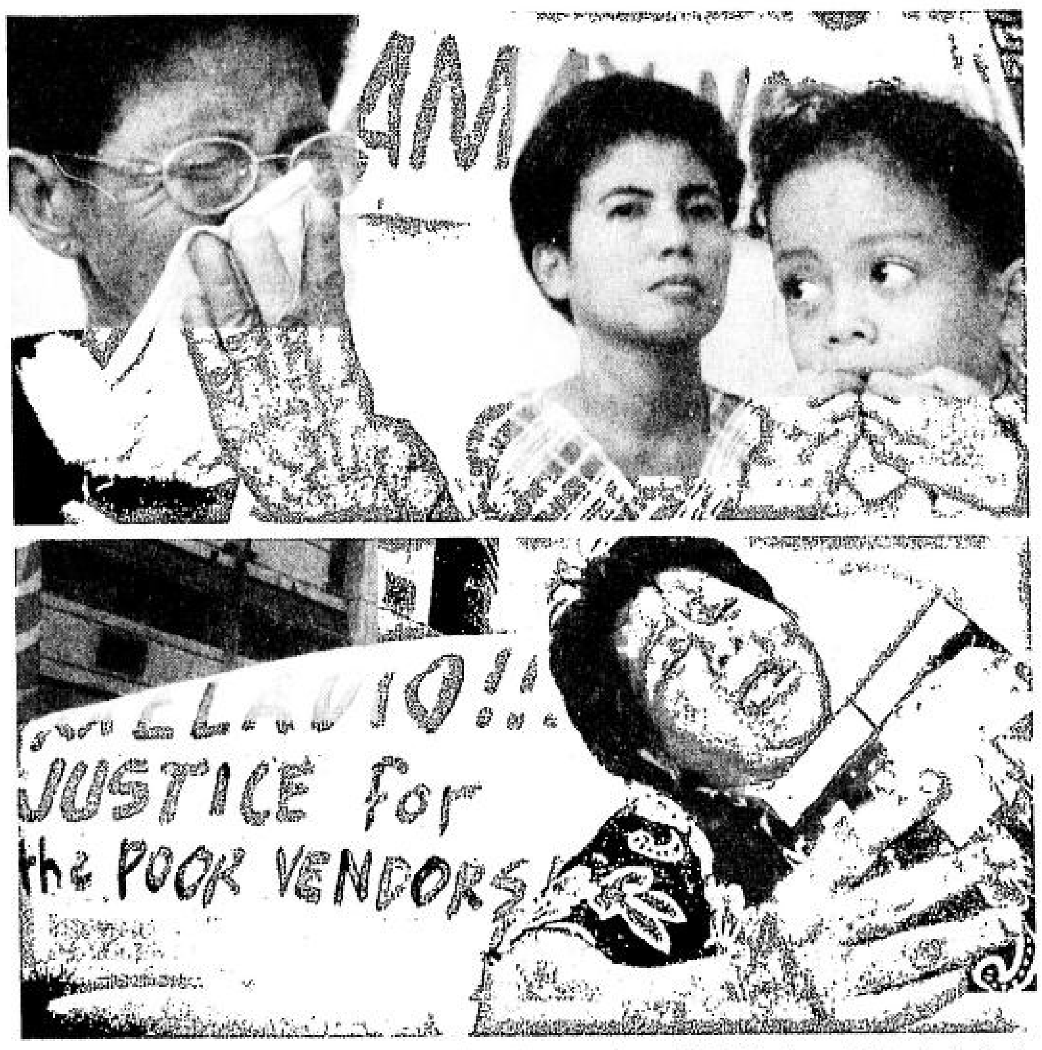
"Bayani Fernando is a criminal," she said. "What he did to my husband is inhuman."

But in yesterday's rally by members of the Metro Manila Vendors Association in front of the MMDA office in Makati, another woman was blaming Fernando for Tuacar's death.

The woman, a certain Rolayda, was identified as Tuacar's second wife with whom he had six children.

"God will not forgive you for what you had done," she shouted in Filipino, addressing Fernando, while clutching a picture of the dead vendor.

The vendors called for a stop to the sidewalk clearing operations and called for justice for Tuacar as they also blamed Fernando the vendor's death.


ELADIO!!!
JUSTICE for
the POOR VENDORS!

Mrs. Delia Tuacar (above, left) with daughter Elena and grandchild Kopi, and Rolayda (below), both cry for justice for the death of vendor Eladio.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO AND JOAN BONDOC

The group also splashed blood in front of the MMDA office to signify the violence the MMDA's operations have bred.

MMVA's Don Pangan said that Tuacar's death shows that the clearing operations must stop, now that it has gained its first casualty.

"We have been warned of this (bloodshed) before," Pangan said in an interview yesterday. "We don't want more of this to happen."

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-NCR spokesperson Ron Hubbard also said yesterday that the group would file murder charges against Fernando and the police officer who shot Tuacar.

For his part, Fernando said that he is taking responsibility for the action of the police officer who shot the vendor, if the officer is found to have been guilty of wrongdoing.

The MMVA also claimed in a statement that contrary to news reports, Tuacar did not shoot at SP02 Sabado Pujeda, who was with the unarmed MMDA personnel conducting clearing operations along Edsa Mantrade.

Pangan said his group had talked to witnesses, who claimed that Tuacar fired the shots when some police officers hit him in the gut with a folded umbrella.

But police reports said that Tuacar had fired two shots at Pujeda, who retaliated by firing several shots at Tuacar with his service firearm, killing the vendor. Pujeda has surrendered to police for investigation.

Fernando had earlier said that despite the violent incident, clearing operations would continue.

Hubbard also said yesterday that Bayan-NCR would bring Tuacar's body in front of the MMDA office in Makati on Wednesday to reiterate their demand for justice. He said the group would also bring Tuacar's wives and possibly his children.

Man gets 14 years for killing another man

By Leila B. Salaverria

A MAKATI Regional Trial Court sentenced to a maximum of 14 years in jail Augorio C. Edang after he was found guilty of shooting to death Dioscoro Labrador on Jan. 16, 2000.

Judge Estela Bernabe also ordered Edang, alias Joan, to pay Labrador's family P100,000 in indemnity and moral damages.

Edang had earlier jumped bail and was tried in absentia.

Court records showed that Nelfa Esclam saw the two arguing on the corner of Mockingbird and Melquid Streets on Jan. 16. She said she was with friends when she saw Edang and Labrador talking about a gun that Edang was trying to get from Labrador. Edang supposedly found a buyer for the gun.

Esclam said that she went inside her friend's house, but after about five minutes, heard a shot, followed by four successive shots.

She said that when she and her friends went out to investigate, they saw Labrador lying on the ground near a lamppost while Edang pointed a gun at him.

Esclam said Edang stared at her and her friends before running away.

Police found several pieces of empty shells in the crime scene, recovered a slug from the victim's chest.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SECRET FANTASY / GALING GALING MO BABES
ODEON	K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
ODEON-2	JASON X / TAMPISAW
ROBEN	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	MURDER BY NUMBERS / DOG SOLDIERS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
REMAR	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
REMAR-2	TUKAAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SPY KIDS - 2
B	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-70 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ENOUGH
CINEMA-2	CINE EUROPA 5
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
CINEMA-2	TUKAAN
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-6	VAN WILDER
CINEMA-7	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-8	VOODOO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	K19.WIDOWMAKER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ENOUGH
CINEMA-12	ROAD TO PERDITION
CINEMA-14	REIGN OF FIRE
CINEMA-15	REVELATION
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	SIMUNE
CINEMA 2	ORANGE COUNTY (WED)SPIRIT (SAT)
CINEMA 3	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA 4	BOURNE IDENTITY
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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ENOUGH P13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:20	SIMONE P13 11:50,2:10,4:30, 6:50,9:10	SPY KIDS 2 P13 1:00,3:15,5:30, 7:45,10:00

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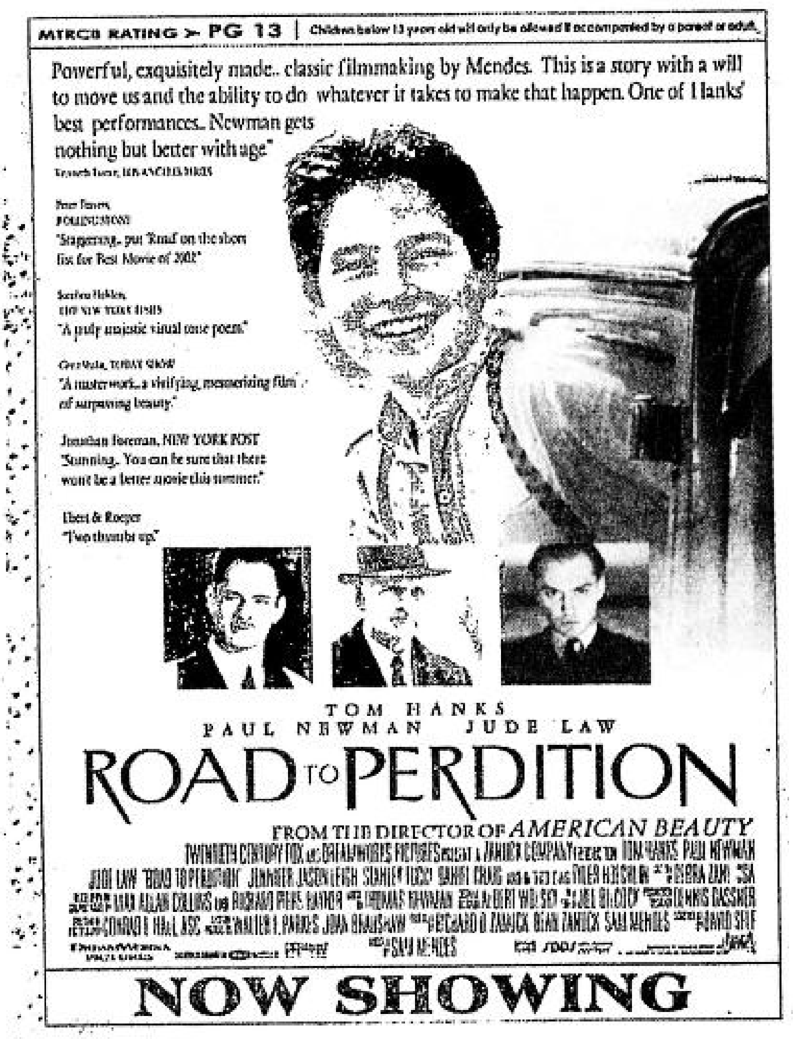
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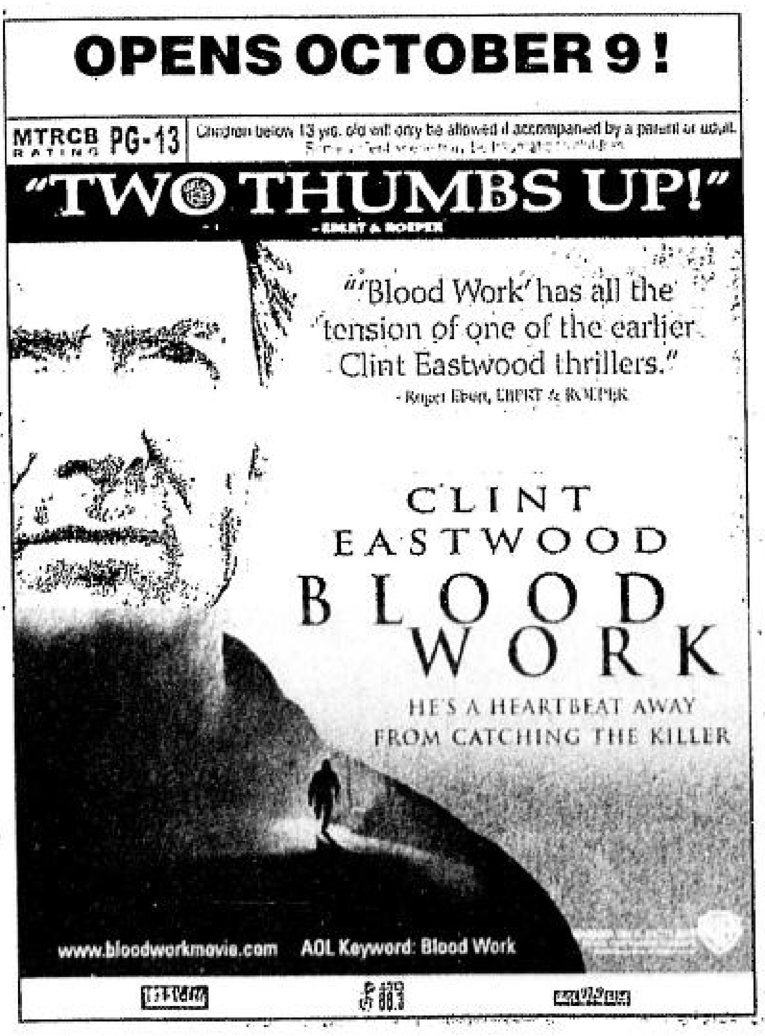
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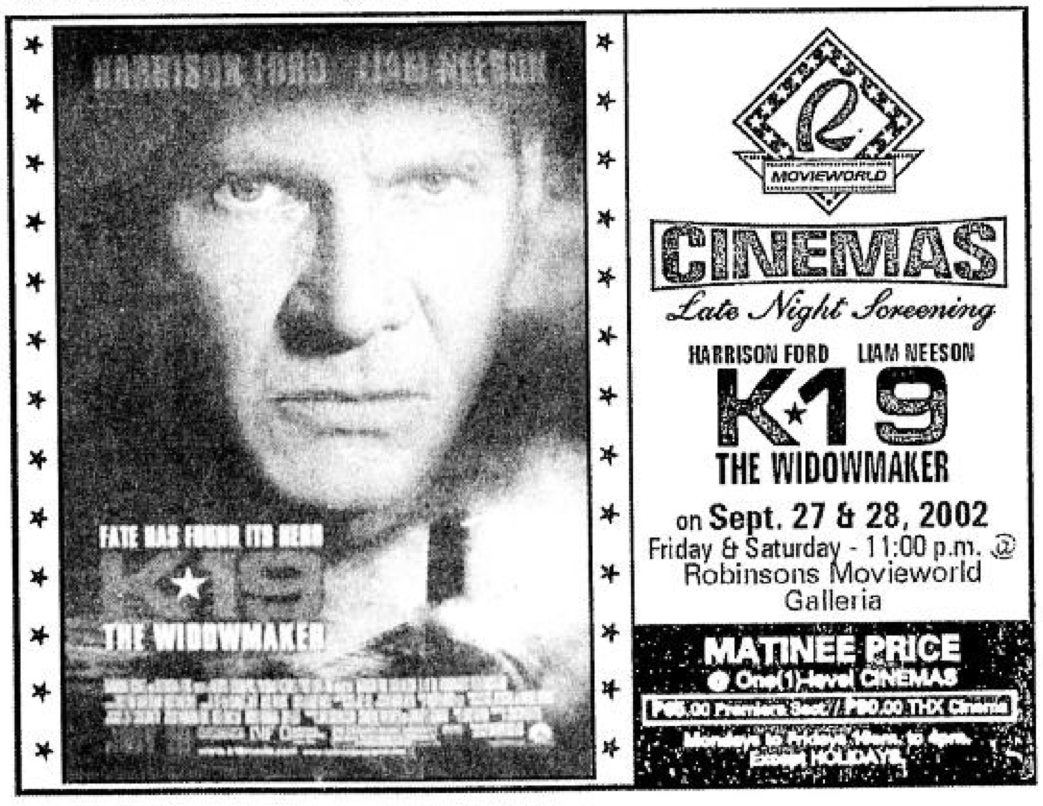
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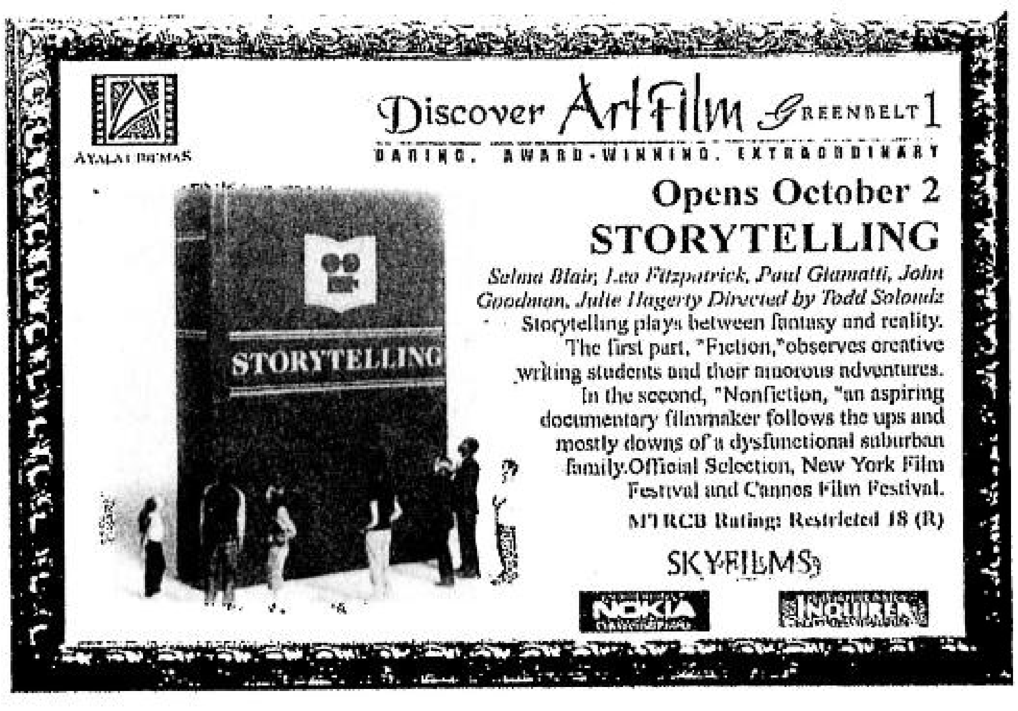
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SKYFILMS

Dinglasan files bribe raps vs 2 officials

By Marinel R. Cruz

MOVIE and Television Review and Classification Board Chair Mari-len Dinglasan on Thursday filed before the Department of Justice charges of bribery and graft and corruption against two fellow officials of the MTRCB as well as a construction company and its architect.

In a memorandum filed before the DOJ, the censors chief said MTRCB executive director Raquel Rey, administrative officer Susan Bandolin, architect Luis M. Zialcita and C. A. Ventura and Partners contractor Eduardo Ventura "made a veiled try at bribing me" in exchange for her approval of a building renovation deal between the board and the construction firm and the release of two checks for P1.8 million.

She said the two checks were supposed to be issued for the repair of the former MTRCB offices at the Aurora Milestones building in Cubao, Quezon City, although the repair was never completed. The MTRCB transferred to the President Tower on Timog Avenue, also in Quezon City.

DINGLASAN

Dinglasan said the respondents came to her office last June and "told me that the (MTRCB) still owed contractor C. A. Ventura P400,000 for renovating the Aurora Milestone (MTRCB) office."

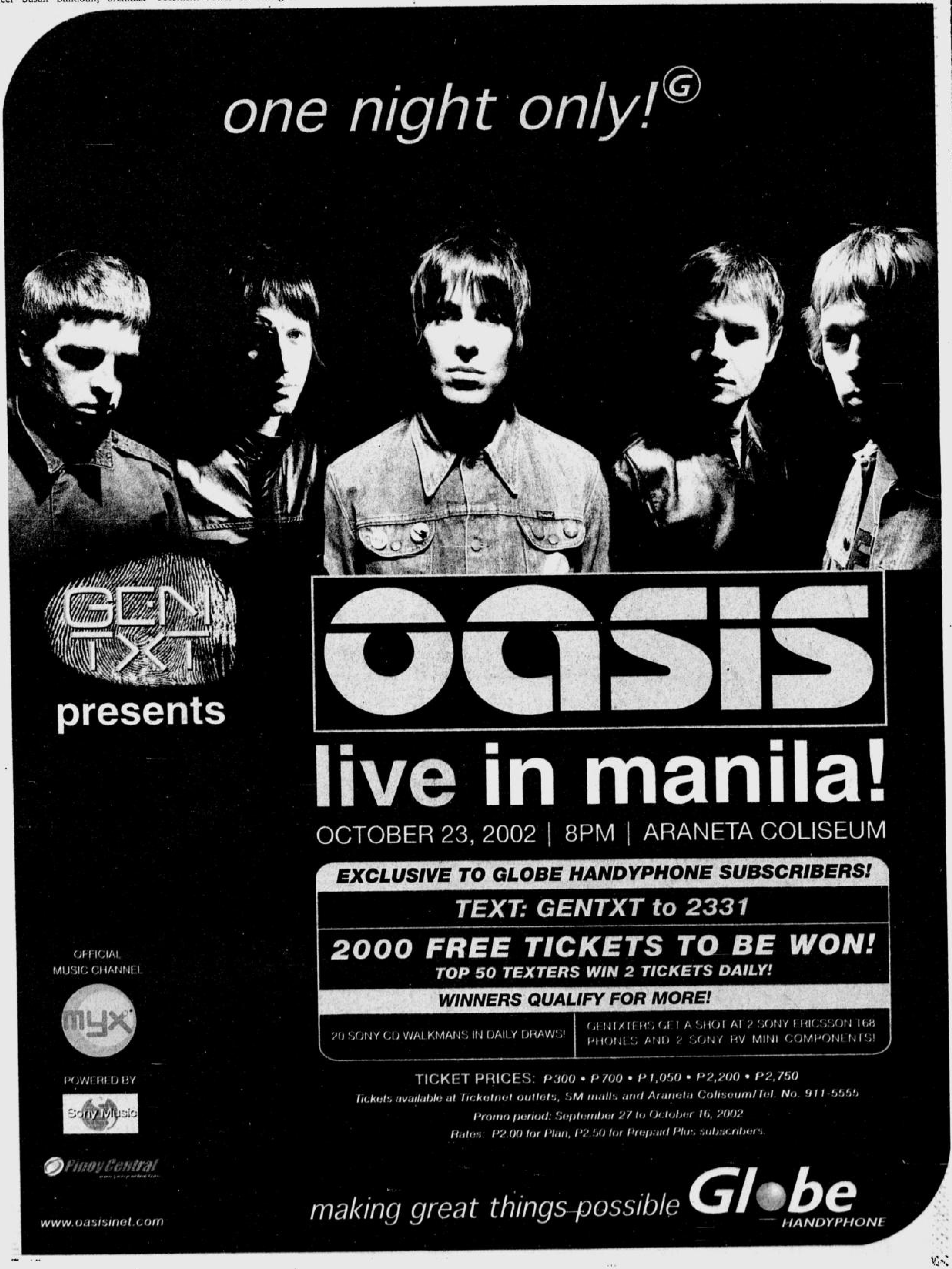
She said they "tried to convince me to allow the contractor to renovate our office at the President Tower and to release the two checks even if the amount allegedly due (the contractor) was only P400,000."

When Dinglasan asked about the balance of P1.4 million, she said the four told her "it would easily be arranged and the balance would be given to me. No mention was ever made that the amount would go back to the (MTRCB)."

Dinglasan said she will turn over to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) "pertinent documents that could be helpful in the probe of a number of irregularities I have discovered in the board."

Dinglasan last Tuesday wrote NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco, asking him to investigate several irregularities and illegal disbursement of government funds that she allegedly discovered early in her term as MTRCB head.

Included in her complaint were the alleged failure of MTRCB chief accountant Arles Mirandilla and Bandolin to account for more than P3 million in government funds, the allegedly disadvantageous contract allowing the forfeiture of rental and renovation deposits on the MTRCB offices in San Juan and at Aurora Milestones in Quezon City and the awarding of the construction and renovation of the MTRCB office at Aurora Milestones to C.A. Ventura/Vencon Construction without public bidding.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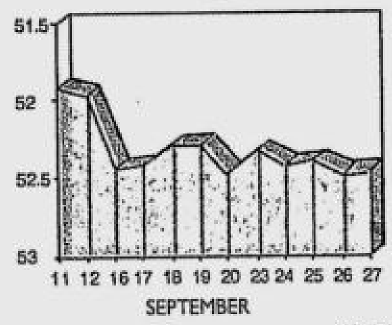

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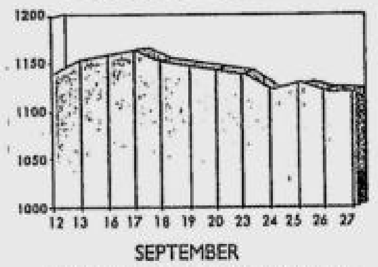
STOCK MARKET

Stocks down slightly

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS closed a shade lower yesterday with most investors cautious of external developments and projections of weaker economic growth next year, traders said.

The Philippine main index ended down 1.07 points or 0.1 percent at 1,119.92 points. On the week, the index dropped 2 percent.

"People are still hesitant to invest at this time, given a number uncertainties, like the possible war in Iraq and its possible effect on domestic economy," said Henry Ong, KGI Securities vice president for sales.

"The IMF also sees lower economic growth in 2003 (for the Philippines) at about 3.8 percent versus the government's projection of 5-5.5 percent," he said.

Value turnover dropped to P198.07 million from Thursday's P306.09 million.

Gainers, led by power retailer Meralco, beat losers 24 to 21. There were 43 stocks unchanged.

Reuters

By Clarissa S. Batino

CREDIT-RATING firms Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's have assured that they would maintain their respective ratings and stable outlook for the country despite the rising government deficit and declining global demand that could adversely affect Philippine growth.

While a downgrade of the ratings and the outlook was not brought up during the meeting of Philippine economic managers separately with the heads of the two rating agencies, an upgrade was likewise not discussed.

"They have said before that it would take a longer time frame for them to decide on any upgrade," said Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura in a teleconference with reporters.

Buenaventura said he and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho met with officials of Moody's as well as S&P in New York the other day.

Like other foreign firms, both rating agencies were concerned about how the government could reverse the decline in revenues and eventually bring the budget deficit to zero over the medium term.

"They were more interested, not in the deficit per se, but in the commitment of the government in meeting a balanced budget. They asked what the short- and medium-term measures are in ensuring that we eventually eliminate the deficit," the BSP chief pointed out.

Standard & Poor's had said in August that the Philippines should not expect an upgrade in the outlook or the ratings itself next year given its unresolved fiscal problems.

S&P had revised to stable last April its negative outlook for the Philippines following the similar decision of Moody's in February.

The Philippines' credit rating from Moody's, S&P and Fitch is currently a notch below investment grade.

A good credit rating usually makes a country's borrowing cheaper and improves the access to these funds. But the positive outlook from these agencies may not be forthcoming until the country's revenues improve and the deficit declines substantially.

"Both rating firms recognize that what we have is a revenue problem and not an expenditure problem. Secretary Camacho assured that the BIR and Customs are putting in place measures to reverse the decline in revenues," Buenaventura said.

Moody's and S&P expressed concern that the global economic slowdown would affect the domestic economy and consequently stall efforts of the government to bring revenue collection up.

"We assured them that even if there is a slowdown in GDP, just plugging the loopholes on revenues and tracking down tax scams would give the government the revenues it need," Buenaventura said.

Power sector privatization seen starting in January

THE $5-BILLION privatization of the country's power assets could begin as soon as January.

The Philippines plans to create a competitive wholesale market and sell large portions of its power system in order to raise funds and attract badly needed investments to the sector.

Nonito Bernardo Jr., vice president of finance at Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), said the transmission assets (Transco) would be privatized as soon as President Macapagal-Arroyo approves the final plan.

PSALM owns the state generation and transmission assets.

"We expect to get approval in October, and we need about three to five months to implement the (transmission) privatization process," Bernardo said at the Seventh Annual Financing Power & Energy Projects in Asia being held in Singapore.

The government will award a 25-year operating concession for Transco, with the option of a 25-year extension. The concession method was chosen over a direct sale for security reasons.

Bernardo said foreign ownership of the concession will be limited to 40 percent, although there could be "certain structures" to allow greater ownership while still abiding by the country's foreign ownership laws.

He said the sale of the generation assets, now owned by National Power Corp. (Napocor), will occur after the Transco concession is awarded, and could occur in the first half of 2003.

The government plans to sell about 3,800 megawatts of generation capacity.

A further 1,150 MW will be privatized over the next three to five years as build-operate-transfer contracts held by independent power producers (IPP) expire and assets are turned over to the government, Bernardo said.

He said the entire privatization should raise some $5 billion, although industry sources were skeptical that the assets would fetch that price given the depressed economy.

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BDO buys First e-Bank branches

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE MONETARY Board, the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, has approved Banco de Oro Universal Bank's bid to acquire the branches and some other assets of Metro Pacific's thrift bank unit, First e-Bank.

In an interview Wednesday evening, Banco de Oro president Nestor Tan said that Banco de Oro was acquiring 60 branches of First e-Bank to bring up the universal bank's branch network to more than 180.

Banco de Oro, owned by retail tycoon Henry Sy, would also assume P9 billion to P10 billion of First e-Bank's deposit liabilities.

"I think this is in line with our growth plan. The branch network (of First e-Bank) will expand our reach. In addition, this will give us access to First e-Bank's 80,000 clients, mostly small and medium enterprises," Tan said. "It wil strengthen our coverage of the SME and middle market."

First e-Bank has been losing money for the past several years and its parent, Metro Pacific, which posted a net loss of more than P20 billion last year, has had difficulty mustering the financial resources to support the thrift bank.

In an interview yesterday, Metro Pacific group spokesperson David Nugent said the transaction "will not significantly (add) cash to Metro Pacific."

Nugent said the transaction was good for Metro Pacific because it would relieve the holding firm from any pressure to infuse further cash into First e-Bank.

First e-Bank's banking license would be given up and it would be renamed PDCP, its former name before Metro Pacific acquired it in 1998.

At present, Metro Pacific owns 98 percent of First e-Bank.

Debt of the thrift bank would be covered by remaining assets.

Going forward, Nugent said that First e-Bank would retain its listing but would change its primary purpose to a non-banking business.

The erstwhile bank has tapped ABN-Amro to be a financial adviser and to craft a strategic business plan.

The new plan would be presented to First e-Bank shareholders and the Metro Pacific board within the fourth quarter of this year.

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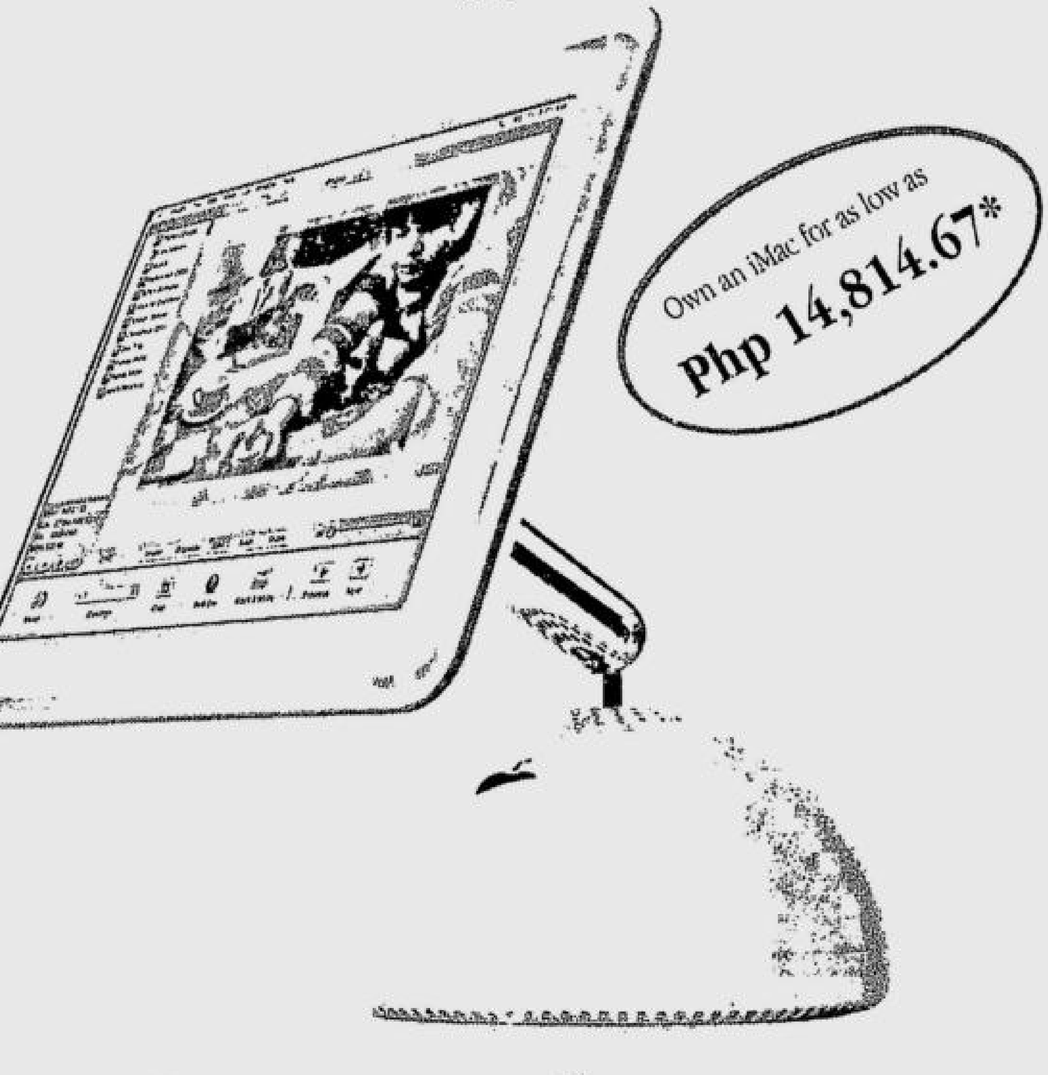

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 3316 Series of 2002

RFM seen keeping listing of Swift

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CONCEPCION family's RFM Corp. is set to transform subsidiary Swift Foods Inc. into a purely poultry and agri-feeds company following the spin-off of the latter's meat processing business.

In an interview yesterday, RFM vice president Ramon Lopez dismissed speculations that Swift would be used as a backdoor listing vehicle for another business after RFM decided to acquire all of its meat processing business.

Lopez explained that the meat processing businesses to be transferred to RFM accounted for only 30 percent of Swift's portfolio while the lion's share of its businesses would remain in its books. No estimate was given, however, on the value of the businesses to be transferred to RFM.

He said Swift's shares of stocks would continue to be listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange. There are also no plans to sell Swift's remaining businesses, he noted.

"Swift's meat operations include branded foods like hotdog and corned beef which we think should be consolidated with RFM because there will be synergy," Lopez said.

On the other hand, he said RFM would move on to strengthen its competitive footing in its remaining businesses.

With the transfer of the meat processing business from Swift to RFM, Swift's share in RFM's total business portfolio would only slightly decline from about 50 to 40 percent, Lopez noted.

He said Swift would boost its remaining businesses by developing new markets as well as making its operations more cost-efficient.

On the expenditure side, Swift is shifting its production to areas like Cagayan de Oro in Mindanao and Isabela in order to lower production costs.

"Swift is also developing more value-added products like marinated chicken and is also developing its export market to increase sales," Lopez said.

In view of the transfer, RFM has agreed to assume the trade liabilities of Swift's meat processing business.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, September 27, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19	18.5	19	184,500
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	95	95	92.5	92.5	700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	44.5	43.5	43.5	228,800
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	20,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29	29	29	258,500
First E-Bank Corp.	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.38	775,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34	32.5	33	248,800
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	30,600
Phil. Savings Bank	23	26	23	26	2,800
Security Bank Corp.	12.5	12.5	12	12	1,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	14,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	89,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.31	0.31	170,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	190	190	190	190	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1115	1120	1115	1120	780
Sun Life Financial Serv.	860	860	855	855	380
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.25	22.25	22	22	6,700
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.51	590,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	480	480	475	475	8,460
ISM Communications Corp.	0.024	0.026	0.024	0.026	2,100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.6	4	3.6	3.9	351,000
Piltel	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	730,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	290	290	285	285	24,200
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	26,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	19	18.75	18.75	144,300
Manila Electric Co. B	33	33.5	33	33.5	1,047,100
Petron Corp.	1.56	1.64	1.56	1.6	3,724,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	80,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.44	2.42	2.44	107,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.55	3.6	3.55	3.6	330,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	70,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	150,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14	14	13.75	14	306,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	27,500
RFM Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	104,100
San Miguel Corp. B	57.5	58	57.5	58	1,268,600
Universal Robina Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	776,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	40,000
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	412,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.245	1,010,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	200,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	4,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	53,700
House of Investments Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
Ionics Inc.	4	4	4	4	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	100,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.7	0.73	0.7	0.73	320,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	140,000
Music Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	30,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	220,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	5,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	30,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	14,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	300,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Manila Jockey Club	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.25	22.25	22.25	22.25	106,000
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	5,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	4	4	4	4	35,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	1,027,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	130,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.165	0.17	1,350,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	621,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	300,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	60,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	879,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	51,000
Benguet Corp. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	200,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	10,900,000
Interport Res.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	9,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0022	0.0022	0.002	0.002	50,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	2,000,000
South China Resources Inc	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000

DISCLOSURES

UNIVERSAL Rightfield Property Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to Nov. 22, 2:30 p.m. at the Function Room, Podium Deck of Pioneer Highlands Condominium, Mandaluyong City. Stockholders of record as of Nov. 2 shall be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

MEMBERS of Globe Telecom Inc.'s audit committee are Romeo Bernardo, Rufino Luis Manotok, Hareen Prassad and Hubert Tubio. While members of nomination committee are Guillermo Luchangco, Delfin Lazaro, Axes Hass and Lim Chuah Poh. Gerardo Ablaza Jr., Edwin Kwan, Lazaro, Luchangco and Hass are members of the compensation committee.

* * *

GLOBAL Business Holdings Inc., formerly Global Business Bank, now exists for the purpose of holding the real and personal properties of GBB which were classified as assets under "real and other properties owned and acquired."

* * *

AYALA Corp. announced the resignation of Mercedita Nolledo as director and the subsequent election of Meneleo Carlos Jr. as independent director to fill up the vacancy. Carlos also serves as chairman of the company's audit committee with Ariston Estrada Jr. and Naoyuki Nobe as members. Its compensation committee has Carlos, Nobe and Makihara as members while its nomination committee has Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Fernando Zobel de Ayala and Carlos. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Sept. 27, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States,	Dollar	1.021972	1.000000	52.4490
Japan	Yen	0.008383	0.008203	0.4302
United Kingdom	Pound	1.593255	1.559000	81.7680
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.131035	0.128218	6.7249
Switzerland	Franc	0.681406	0.666756	34.9707
Canada	Dollar	0.649284	0.635324	33.3221
Singapore	Dollar	0.573981	0.561640	29.4575
Australia	Dollar	0.556660	0.544692	28.5686
Bahrain	Dinar	2.711018	2.652731	139.1331
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.272526	0.266667	13.9864
Brunei	Dollar	0.571413	0.559128	29.3257
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000111	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023494	0.022989	1.2058
UAE	Dirham	0.278246	0.272264	14.2800
Korea	Won	0.000839	0.000821	0.0431
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.978500	51.3213
Argentina	Real	0.279227	0.273224	14.3303
Brazil	Real	0.272236	0.266383	13.9715
Denmark	Kroner	0.134486	0.131595	6.9020
India	Rupee	0.021146	0.020691	1.0852
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.268976	0.263193	13.8042
Mexico	New Peso	0.100796	0.098629	5.1730
New Zealand	Dollar	0.480318	0.469991	24.6506
Norway	Kroner	0.136565	0.133629	7.0087
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017321	0.016949	0.8890
South Africa	Rand	0.096881	0.094798	4.9721
Sweden	Kroner	0.109155	0.106808	5.6020
Syria	Pound	0.023121	0.022624	1.1866
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029300	0.028670	1.5037
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000701	0.000686	0.0360

Used auto import ban seen to result in losses

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

USED vehicle importers in the Subic freeport zone yesterday warned that the government could lose billions of pesos in potential revenues from the President's decision to shut the door on further imports of second-hand, right-hand drive vehicles.

In a statement, Asia International Auctioneers spokesperson Jenny Armamento claimed that the Subic auction business had been contributing "billions of pesos" directly to the National Treasury from the duties and taxes collected by the Bureau of Customs, Land Transportation Office and the Bureau of Internal Revenue. AIA is the biggest importer and converter of second-hand, RHD vehicles in Subic.

Motor Vehicle Importers Association president Eddie Barretto said a halt in the trade of used vehicle imports would also have a negative impact on the operations of the Subic Freeport because the importers were paying rent, attract local tourists and generate employment.

Barretto noted the trickle down effect of the large crowd of buyers attending the Subic used vehicle auctions particularly on hotels, restaurants and other tourism facilities in the country.

Malacañang approved the amendments to the Motor Vehicle Development Program early this month including the prohibition on all used vehicle imports except for those brought through the Balikbayan program while special-purpose vehicles such as fire trucks and ambulances would continue to be allowed to come in.

Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the Subic importers would continue with their trade as long as they re-export the vehicles to other countries.

The local automotive industry had long clamored for a ban on used vehicle imports because these have been eating up on their sales since a used vehicle purchased is one less new vehicle sold.

The Department of Trade and Industry estimated that the Subic importers sold roughly 50,000 units last year or 70 percent of total number of new cars sold during the period.

PSE told to justify plan to raise SCCP stake

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has directed the Philippine Stock Exchange to justify its plan to increase its stake in the Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines to 100 percent from 51 percent.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista told PSE president Ernest Leung yesterday that the exchange would have to get prior approval of the SEC before pushing through with the transaction.

The PSE board authorized its management Wednesday to negotiate the buy-out of the other shareholders in SCCP—Citibank N.A., Equitable PCI Bank and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.—by offering a share swap of PSE's shares in the Philippine Central Depository.

The PSE currently owns 30 percent of PCD worth some P60 million and 51 percent of SCCP worth P25 million.

Once the swap has been effected, PSE's stake in PCD would fall to 20 percent and its stake in SCCP would increase to 100 percent.

In a briefing yesterday, Bautista quoted Leung as saying that a greater control of SCCP would allow the exchange to institute certain changes and upgrades that would be cost efficient to the PSE in the long run.

The PSE board also gave management the authority to negotiate the acquisition of a new clearing and settlement system designed to reduce the settlement period from the current three days after trade (T+3).

Leung told reporters Wednesday that the new system would integrate the functions of both the central depository as well as the central clearing and settlement systems currently managed by the SCCP and PCD.

The new settlement system being eyed by the exchange costs $800,000 or P41.6 million.

Leung explained that the system would be cheaper to maintain and would make the settlement clearing self-sustaining if not profitable.

PSE board directors Robert Coyiuto Jr., Eddie Gobing, Harry Liu, Edwin Luy and Federico Lim, however, were protesting the decision to buy the new system. They cited current low trading volume did not justify the cost of the project and there was a need to preserve resources now.

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DOJ vows to prosecute counterfeiters

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice recently assured the international business community that the Philippine government would relentlessly prosecute product and brand counterfeiters and infringers of internationally famous brands in a bid to restore the country's tarnished reputation.

DOJ State Prosecutor Jude Romano said the government had already filed some 29 criminal cases involving violations of the provisions of the Intellectual Property Code pertaining to internationally famous brands against local businessmen Manolo Samson. The charges stemmed from complaints by Caterpillar Inc. of USA, which alleged that Samson had unlawfully copied its internationally famous brand and product designs.

Caterpillar said its authentic licensed products, which include heavy-duty shoes, shirts and leather goods, are not yet sold locally except in limited quantities at the Duty Free Philippine Shops. It warned consumers that locally sold products in malls all over the country bearing its world-famous Caterpillar and CAT brands were not licensed originals.

Romano said the government was determined to pursue these cases. Earlier, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño junked an appeal filed by Samson, a move which businessmen said was a positive signal to the international investor community that the government is determined to fight product and brand piracy.

Romano admitted there was a very serious piracy problem in the country. "Everything is being pirated here—from pencils to medicines," he said.

He added that the piracy problem was hurting the country's image.

"Product piracy is not only unfair to Filipino consumers but is also damaging to the reputation of the country in the international market, he pointed out.

Multinational firms invest billions of dollars in research and development, product positioning and brand building; they will not just allow others to copy and paste their trademark on counterfeit goods, he explained.

Toyota extends vehicle warranty period to 3 years

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. recently announced the extension of the warranty period for Toyota vehicles from the original two years/50,000 km to three years/100,000 km.

This is proof of the company's commitment to stand behind every Toyota that it sells. The new warranty also aims to further strengthen the bond between Toyota and its hundreds of thousands of Filipino customers.

Referring to a recent newspaper article about consumers' sad experiences with Toyota after sales service, Toyoto first vice president Daniel Isla said, "Toyota after sales service has stood by its commitment to provide the best quality service and support to our customers."

Isla added that with regard to the published complaint of Ms Juliet Javellana, a Revo owner, the company had taken action on the specific issues she raised and the vehicle had been properly serviced within the quality standards of Toyota.

TMPC, according to company statement, has sold more than 40,000 units of the Revo since it was introduced in 1998. "These numbers are proof of its popularity due to the high quality and outstanding performance it has shown through the years," it said.

With the new extended warranty offered by Toyota on its vehicles, the company looks forward to delivering greater customer satisfaction to its Filipino consumers.

Power sector . . .

From page B1

However, Bernardo said forecast annual demand growth of 6 percent for the next five to 10 years should sweeten investment prospects.

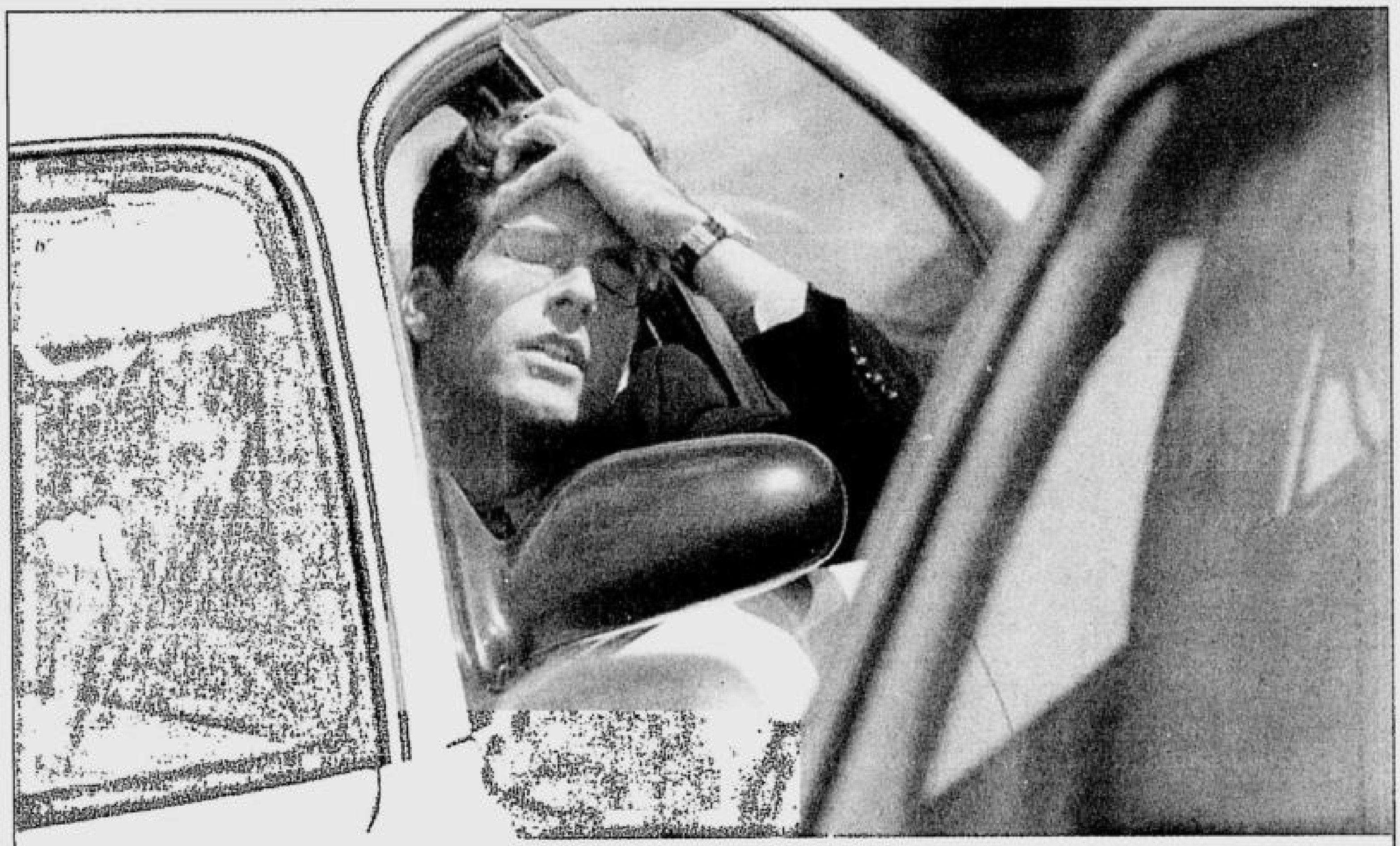
The government will ask for 25 percent up front cash payment, with the remainder made in deferred payments over 15 to 25 years, Bernardo said.

A key piece of the market restructuring puzzle that is still missing is a competitive wholesale market. This is not expected to be in place until late 2003, according to a source at Transco, which is responsible for creating the market.

PSALM officials said the sale of generation assets would go ahead without a wholesale market in place, although they hoped to come up with a way to give investors an idea of how the market would operate.

The government initially planned to launch an interim market by the end of 2002 to give potential bidders a peek at how the market would work, with a more permanent market to be put in place in the future.

However, the source said that plans for an interim market had been scrapped after the World Bank disapproved of the bids entered into a tender to build the market, and that Transco would now reopen bidding for a permanent market. *Reuters*



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People, Events & Products

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Jitse topnotcher youngest examinee

19-YEAR-OLD Sandra Jean Valentino Chua, a student of the Ateneo De Manila University, is this year's topnotcher in the fundamental IT engineering exam held by the Japanese IT Standards Examination of the Philippines Foundation Inc. (Jitse-Phil), besting more than 700 Filipino IT professionals and practitioners.

Not only was she the brightest, but Chua was also the youngest among the examinees.

Out of more than 700 examinees, 38 passed the exam for a passing rate of 5.3 percent. This passing rate is a lower figure than last year, which had a 6.11-percent passing rate.

The exam was composed of theory and programming questions. All technical questions in the programming section came from Japan, while 30 percent of the questions in the theory part came from local administrators.

Aside from Chua, the other successful Jitse certified IT professionals in the top 10 were William Yao Jr., Ryan Lester Co, Neil Ongkingco, Erwin Garry Unson, Jan Kenneth Tan, Joseph Sta. Ana, Michael Tan Mariano, Brian Kenneth De Jesus and Joshua Ang Liao.

While most examinees were in their 20s and 30s, Jerome Confesor Jarder proved that age doesn't matter when it comes to brainpower. At 59, he was the oldest in the group, yet Jarder demonstrated a keen aptitude on the latest in information technology.

The other successful Jitse Certified IT professionals are: Jeffrey Joaquin Jongko, Emmanuel Pagaran Agcopra, Earl Dorilag Dorado, Jhoanna Lim Chao, Elbert Choa Sy, Cindy Siy Ong, Michael G. Arco, Kristine Marie Salvosa Panes, Melvin Reyes Matulac, Franklin Gabriel Enabore Guevarra, Ramil Gonzales Sagum, Ronald Mondala Miranda, Lord Wilfrando Mariscal Sy, Noel Cabiling Branzuela, Joel C. Lim, Rommel Chua delos Santos, Joan Bernaldo Salazar, Vincent Afable Yap, John Sherwin Que Locarinas, Van Henreich Acuna Rontal, Efren Dela Cruz Ty Jr., Patrick Lu Tan, Benedicto Lamban Cojuangco, Buenaventura Afable, Reden Galazan Santos, Wilson Dy Bautista, and Emmanuel Sandibay Carbonell.

Jitse-Phil is a globally-recognized IT certification program for IT practitioners. It is a joint project of the Department of Trade and Industry and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Meti) and organized by the Jitse-Phil Foundation. It is also sponsored by Fujitsu Philippines Inc. and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industries in the Philippines.

To know more about Jitse-Phil., visit its website at www.jitse.org or call 817-8668, 817-7306, 817-9844 or fax 812-8027.

COCOLIFE OPENS CUSTOMER ACTION CENTER

Cocolife recently opened its Customer Action Center at the ground floor of the Cocolife building on Ayala Avenue, attended by employees, officers and guests. Equipped with state-of-the-art computers and communication facilities, the center caters to the needs and requirements of clients, beneficiaries and prospective clients in all lines: individual, group, and HMO. Cutting the ceremonial ribbon is Benigna Tumacder assisted by lawyer Alfredo C. Tumacder, Cocolife president and Noel C. Cabrera, chair of the board.

a little pain, a life to gain.

ANOTHER COMMUNITY RELATIONS KUDOS

Intel Philippines community relations officer Chona Ignalaga (left) holds the 'Sandugo Tandang Sora' award during ceremonies held at the Heritage Hotel. The award was given by the Department of Health's (DOH) Center for Health Development in recognition of Intel Philippines' blood donation program and its contributions to the Makati City Voluntary Blood Services Program. Through its community relations (Comrel) program, Intel strives to be an asset to its host communities by organizing and supporting various projects in its immediate communities in Makati and Cavite. Intel encourages its employees to volunteer for these community service initiatives through a program called 'Intel Involved'. Intel Corp., the world's largest chipmaker, is also a leading manufacturer of personal computer, networking and communication products. Additional information about Intel is available at www.intel.com/pressroom. Also shown is DOH NCR Director David J. Lozada Jr.

'EL FILI' AT GANTIMPALA THEATER

Dr. Jose Rizal's 2nd novel 'El Filibusterismo' as dramatized by Jomar Fleras and adapted and inspired by the movie-musical 'Moulin Rouge' by stage director Frannie Zamora is Gantimpala Theater Foundation's second offering for its 25th silver anniversary season. The play features TV and movie stalwarts Allan Paule as Don Simoun, Bodjie Pascua as Padre Florentino, Wowie de Guzman as Basilio and Tin Arnaldo alternating with Paula Ferrer as Paulita who joins other cast members Perry Dizon, Roobak Valle, Jorge Cabullo, Kakai Bautista, Paulo Cabanero, Arkin da Silva, Dekster Santos and Eloy de Guzman. This final weekend run will be at the RFC Cinema/Theater along Zapote-Alabang Road, Las Pinas, on Sept. 28 and Sept. 29 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Revlink redefines the Internet

NEVER has an Internet Service Provider been as dedicated in promoting the value of time and discipline while maintaining an excellent service standard as Revlink Internet Services Inc.

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For more information on Revlink Internet's low-cost subscription plans, call 545-7943, 545-8177 or e-mail admin@revelation.net.ph. You could also check out their web site at www.revelation.net.ph.

San Pablo City project sponsors

"FREESTYLE in San Pablo City" will be held on Sept. 28, 8 p.m. at the Aquino Stadium of Laguna State Polytechnic College, San Pablo City, Laguna. The proceeds will go to the Welfare and Protection Fund for Children of DSWD. "Freestyle in San Pablo City" organizers Col. Samson Tocino and Col. Igmedio Buongaling acknowledge sponsors Smart, McDonald's, Chowking-Ultimart, Greenwich, Montana Drinking Water, STI College, Audio Video Mobile, Celestron Cable, Kabalikat, Angel Radio AM station and 94.3 Lovely Radio FM. Tickets are available at the PSAF Building, LSPC-Supreme Student Council, MSC School, SPC Shopping Mall, Foodtrip Snack House and San Pablo Colleges.

DLSU-D holds art workshop

IN CELEBRATION of De La Salle University-Dasmarinas' 25th anniversary as an educational institution, the Anting-Anting Group of artists will facilitate a drawing and painting workshop on Sept. 28 at the Zaguan area of the Museo De La Salle. Sponsored by Crown Supply Corp. makers of Faber Castell, in cooperation with Museo De La Salle and the Institutional Communication Office, the workshop aims to enhance the participants' creative and artistic talents. The workshop is open to Grade 4 to 6 students on a first-come-first-served basis. For inquiries call Cecile Gelicame at (046)416-4397 or (02)844-9116 local 3151.

WELCOME DELEGATES
SEAGIG 2002

2ND SEAGIG STARTS

The start of the second biennial meeting of the South East Asia Glaucoma Interest Group (SeaGig) was heralded by the welcome reception held at the Isla Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Dr. Manuel Agulto (9th from right), president of the Philippine Glaucoma Society (PGS) and Dr. Mario Aquino (11th from right), honorary chair of the PGS, are shown together with PGS members. Over 600 delegates graced the event.

BITS Clips

Justice Agnir retires

ASSOCIATE Justice Wenceslao I. Agnir Jr. retires from the Court of Appeals, capping his 13 years of service in the judiciary, on Sunday, Sept 29. He turns 70 that day, the mandatory retirement age of judges and justices. Justice Agnir was appointed on Jan. 12, 1990 by former president Cory Aquino as Presiding Judge of Regional Trial Court (RTC) Laoag City, Branch 15. In July 1995, he was transferred to Quezon City RTC, Branch 15. Before joining the judiciary, Agnir worked for Far East Bank for 26 years, starting in 1962 as legal assistant and retiring in 1988 as first vice president for manpower management and security group. He graduated from the UP College of Law Class 1956 and passed the bar the same year with a general average of 84.5 percent. He is married to the former Lilia Castro with whom he has four children, all of them professionals.

NumberWorks joins Franchise Fair

GET TO learn more on what business opportunities the NumberWorks promises you as it joins this year's Franchise Fair ongoing until today, Sept. 28 at booth 522 of the World Trade Center in Roxas Boulevard, Manila. According to Terttu Yang, NumberWorks principal, NumberWorks is a software-based Math tutorial center teaching children from Kindergarten to 4th year high school and has been proven and tested in New Zealand and Australia over the past 20 years, more recently in England and for more than five years in the Philippines. Young added that NumberWorks has over 1000 computer programs in use covering the entire Philippine Math Syllabus from Kindergarten to 4th year high school. For more information, call 807-6294 or 807-4893, e-mail tkyang@axti.com, or log on to www.numberworks.com.

Baby Boom at Ever

EVER Department Stores celebrate "Baby Boom" this September. With a minimum purchase worth P500 in a single receipt from the infants section, boy's toddlers and girl's toddlers, you can join in the three Baby Boom promotions: 1) Pick a Prize; 2) Funniest Baby on Video, P20,000 for the 1st prize, P10,000 for the 2nd and P5,000 for the 3rd; 3) Mommies, daddies and babies will surely have a grand time in the Baby Olympics on Sept. 28 at Ever Gotesco Commonwealth Center-Atrium. These promos are brought to you by Ever Department Store conveniently located at Recto, Grand Central, Commonwealth, and Ortigas.

Andanians meet at PCA

THE ANDANIANS (Pangasinan) Association Inc., an organization of natives from Anda, Pangasinan residing in Metro Manila and nearby provinces will hold a meeting today at 2 p.m. at the Philippine Columbian Association, Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila. Jessie Cabalquinto Panit, AAI president, said the meeting will take up several projects that will benefit residents of Anda. Among these are the construction of a waiting shed in front of the market, a cottage in Barangay Tondol, medical/dental missions and elections of new officers. Andanians can call up Panit at 912-0511, 913-2373, Rose Calicdan at 417-2991, Harry Cativo at 527-8425m and Eli Canta at 0917-6491082.

Stock market seminar today

THE SEMINAR "How to Win and Invest in the Philippine Stock Market" organized by AT Valino Public Relations Firm will be held on Sept. 28, at the Mondragon House, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Lecturer is Irving Ackerman, president of I. Ackerman Inc., one of the country's top stockholders, who will expound on the basic tenets of stock market investments. "Now is the best time to buy stocks because prices are very low," says Ackerman. He will also give participants tips on which stocks are doing well and those that show potential in the market. For inquiries, call 248-1244 or 0919-6159674.

Phillip Lazaro in Davao

ESTEEMED singer-comedian Phillip Lazaro goes to Davao on Sept. 28, with a special show presented by The Venue, the city's one-stop entertainment hub. So it will be a comical partying in Davao. The show, titled "Larger than Laff" is brought to you by Caltex Corp., Lipton Ice Tea, Mama Sita's, ABS-CBN Davao, 93.1 Crossover, 89.1 Killerbee, 94.7 Mellow Touch and Linmarr Suites and Apartelle. Phillip will perform with his two equally talented guests Regine Velasquez and Rey Kilay.

Japan posts 5.4% jobless rate

TOKYO—Japan's unemployment rate held steady at 5.4 percent in August, the 14th straight month it has stood at 5 percent or higher, underlying a fragile recovery that remains heavily dependent on exports.

Since hitting a record 5.5 percent in December—the highest since the government began keeping track about 50 years ago—the jobless rate had not slid below 5.2 percent this year.

The figures released Friday by the government Labor Force Statistics Office show an economy still struggling to find new areas for growth.

The number of unemployed was 3.61 million, up 250,000 from the same month last year.

"There is no momentum yet that things are going to improve," said Masato China, director of the Labor Force Statistics Office.

Old jobs in manufacturing and construction are being eroded by a slowdown that the government acknowledges has lingered off and on for more than 10 years.

In July, the jobless rate stood unchanged at 5.4 percent. Japan's unemployment rate has steadily marked 5 percent or higher since June last year.

Azusa Kato, economist at BNP Paribas in Tokyo, says the unemployment picture is actually more dismal than the numbers show.

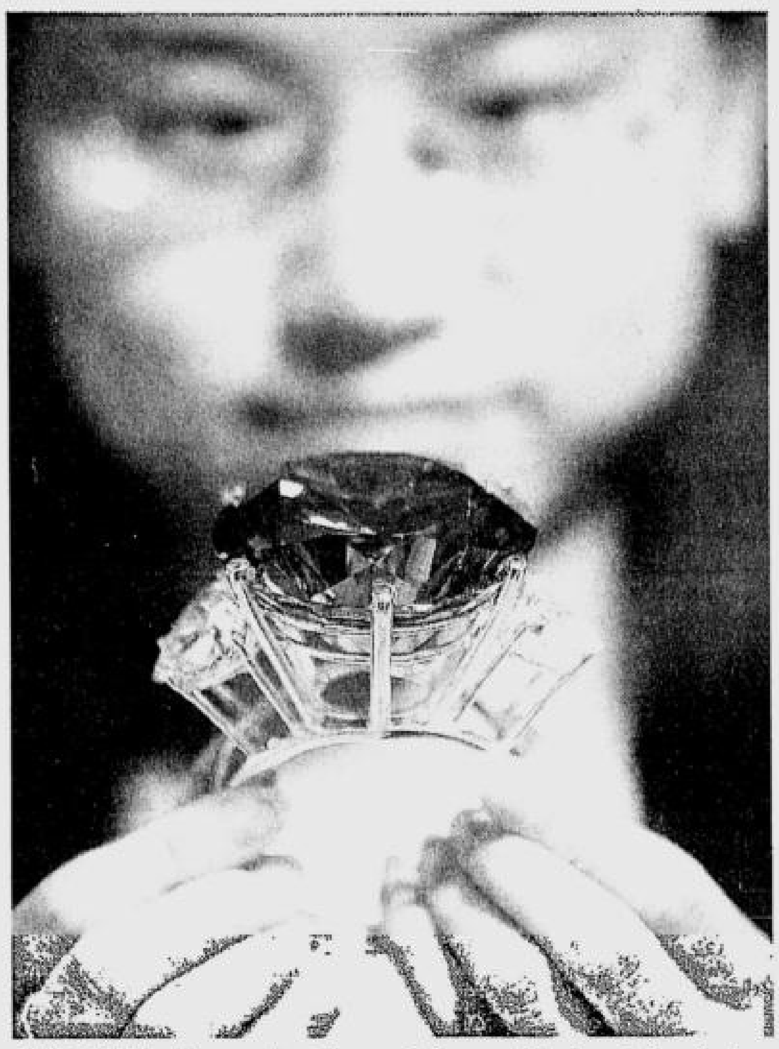
Many people have dropped out of the workforce, having given up job-hunting, and are no longer being counted as part of the unemployed, she said.

"Things are getting better only in a limited way," she said, noting that overtime and part-time employment had gone up lately.

The government says the economy bottomed out earlier this year, getting a lift from exports to the United States, Europe and Asia as overseas economies begin to emerge from a slump.

The Japanese squeezed out 0.5 percent of growth in the April-June quarter but the economy shrank for four straight quarters before that—the first time Japan recorded four consecutive quarters of contraction since the government began keeping comparable records in 1980.

Last week, the government revised its growth forecast for the fiscal year ending in March 2003 to 0.2 percent growth from no growth at all because of rising exports and output at factories. *AP*



A WOMAN holds up a giant ring made from cubic zirconia for display purposes at the Hong Kong Jewellery and Watch Fair. The annual fair showcases finished jewellery, diamonds, pearls and gemstones. AFP

French firm eyes debt financing deals worth $5B in Asia

HONG KONG—Wreckage from the global telecom and technology crash still smoulders, but banker Thierry Magnan is eyeing $5 billion of deals in Asia, confident that his new debt financing business will escape the worst of the risk.

"It would probably have been more dangerous to have taken this decision (to start up) two years ago at the top of the market speculation," said Magnan, two weeks into his new job as regional head of media and telecom finance for SG, the investment banking arm of France's Societe Generale.

Transferring from SG's headquarters in Paris—where evidence of telecoms carnage stretches from France Telecom to Vivendi Universal and beyond—Magnan says Asia has escaped the excesses seen in the United States and Europe.

"In Europe there was lots of speculation on 3G licenses, in the US we saw a lot of speculation on (Internet protocol) backbone investment, but we haven't seen that in Asia," he said.

"The result is that most of the Asian telecom operators are very sound in terms of their balance sheet and will be able to continue to invest in their networks and carry on their expansion programs," said Magnan, whose new operation will initially focus on opportunities in Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines.

The bank is keen to act, able to commit immediately to deals worth $500 million to $1 billion and anticipating 15 or so structured and project finance transactions worth $5 billion in Asia over the next 18 months. *Reuters*

France to set up new financial regulator

PARIS, France—French Finance Minister Francis Mer said on Thursday that the government would set up a new financial regulator to enforce corporate governance standards by law and backed tougher rules recommended by French business leaders.

Mer said the new single regulatory body would have strong powers to ensure corporate transparency and impose sanctions.

A draft law introducing "significant changes" in financial regulation would be ready by the end of the year and presented to parliament in early 2003.

Responding to a wave of corporate scandals in the wake of the Enron collapse in the United States, France has previously said its current rules were effective but that it was keeping its options open on whether to back up existing codes by legislation.

Mer said he felt self-regulation was not enough.

"I think we need to reinforce the measures at our disposal with a public authority; self-regulation is no longer working," Mer said.

However, he added his voice to doubts already expressed in Europe over a tough anti-fraud law introduced in the United States, which could affect European companies operating there.

Earlier this year, US lawmakers passed the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, dubbed the most radical shake-up of federal securities law since the 1930s. The European Commission has complained the new checks and balances could impose a double regulatory regime on European companies operating in the United States.

"This law caused a lot of relief in Europe because a strong American reaction was hoped for, but it also caused a certain amount of incomprehension," Mer said. *Reuters*

Exec's resignation seen as a setback for Disney

LOS ANGELES—The sudden departure of one of Walt Disney Co.'s top executive from its most profitable division is regarded as a setback for the media giant as it struggles to revive earnings growth.

In a surprise announcement, Paul Pressler, the former chair of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, was named on Thursday chief executive of clothing retailer Gap Inc. effective immediately.

While analysts said the company has a breadth of talent from which to replace him, the departure of the 15-year veteran is likely to raise questions about Disney's ability to retain management. It will also put further pressure on chief executive Michael Eisner, already facing shareholder concerns over a declining stock price.

"In our opinion, he is Disney's best and most experienced executive and we view his departure as a loss for the company," Merrill Lynch media analyst Jessica Reif Cohen said in a research note.

As Pressler joins Gap, which is in the midst of a long-term plan to right itself, he leaves an operation in similar straits: Disney's sprawling theme parks division. The unit has 10 parks in the United States, France and Japan, and employs about 90,000 "cast members," as Disney calls the employees.

"What it says to me is Disney is a pretty tough place to work these days," said Rich Ingrassia, a media and entertainment analyst at Roth Capital Partners. *Reuters*

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VARIABLE LIFE September 27, 2002	NAV per share	One Year Return	Y-T-D Return
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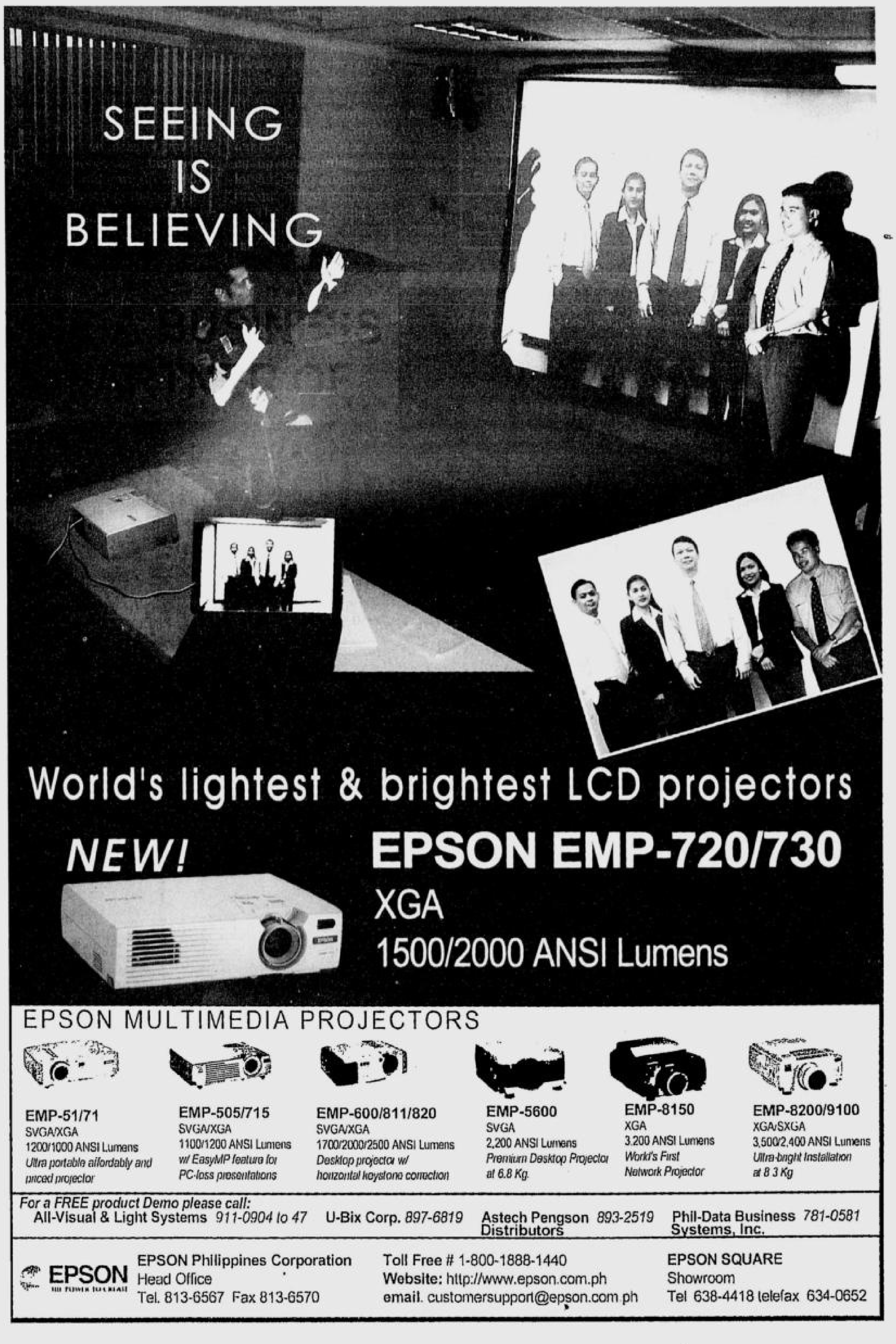

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang ● Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Parasites cause poor school work

By Tessa R. Salazar

MORE than one billion people in the world are infested with worms. This includes at least 400 million school age children who play host to roundworms (ascaris), whipworms (trichuris) and hookworms (necator and ancylostoma).

A conservative estimate places the number of Filipinos, majority of whom are school age children, chronically infested with worms at 20 million. Worm infestations occur the highest in the 5 to 14 age bracket.

The World Health Organization said children infested with parasites are nearly four times more likely to be stunted, underweight, less physically fit and suffer from learning disabilities. Parasitic intestinal worms cause absenteeism and loss of concentration in school. They also cause periodic abdominal pain and discomfort.

Hookworm infestation can have even more serious consequences like chronic blood loss at a rate of 0.05 cc per worm per day.

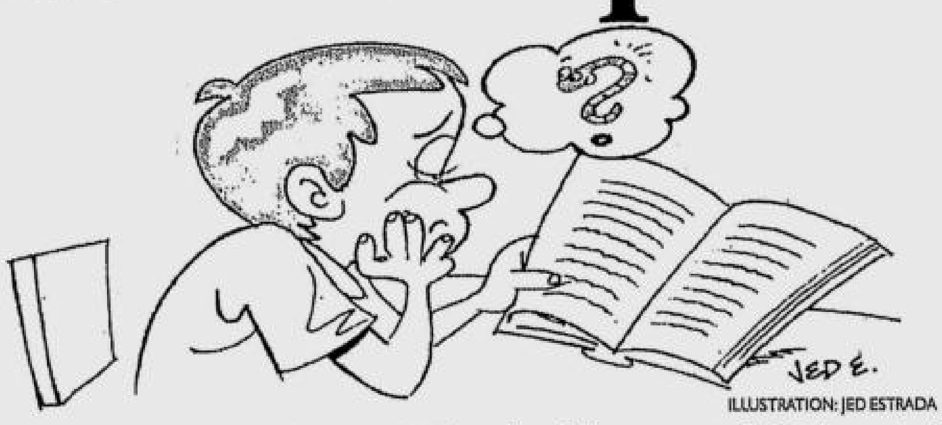


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

The Helminthiasis Study Group (HSG) of the University of the Philippines College of Publlic Health said that for as long as a child is not treated for parasitic infestation, he will remain malnourished. The host-victim slowly wastes away as he competes with, and loses to, his parasite worms for nutrition.

"In other words, you become a sickly child," said parasitologist Dr. Vicente Y. Belizario Jr. of the HSG.

Public health problem

In the WHO Western Pacific region covering East Asia and the Pacific, intestinal worms, or helminths, remain a leading public health problem. In poor communities with inadequate sanitation and hygiene, it is common to find 90 percent of children infected with at least one parasite.

The next generation of humans is not reaching its full potential as a result of a very preventable problem, according to Dr. Shigeru Omi, regional director for WHO Western Pacific region.

Virtually any child who lives, plays, studies or works in an area with poor environmental sanitation is considered high-risk for intestinal parasites, said Belizario.

A recent survey of six sites in the Philippines shows infestation rates at more than 50 percent. The overall infestation rate is about 67 percent in public schools. This means seven out of 10 schoolchildren are host to at least one type of worm.

In 1998, more than a thousand children outside Metro Manila participated in a clinical study for a combination of treatments for common intestinal worms. In Biñan, Laguna, the study showed that the prevalence of parasitic infestation was as high as 94 percent in one public elementary school.

The study also revealed that parasitic infestation prevalence was 60 percent for school children enrolled in the first section and 90 percent for those in the seventh section.

"A story has been told. The more intelligent you are, the less likely you have worms. This only means that worms and school performance have a connection," said Belizario.

Hookworms can be picked up through the skin, but it is not a common infestation in urban areas as it is in rural areas. In Monkayo, Compostela Valley, more than 50 percent of children in the 242 communities surveyed had hookworms.

"The children wear slippers to school, but the slippers are worn out," observed Belizario.

In another survey in Monkayo involving fish-borne intestinal flukes (pulmonary paragonimiasis, which mimics tuberculosis symptoms), it was found that 36 percent of residents were infested. It also afflicted one in four school children.

Cheap treatment

The HSG is recommending a twice-a-year en masse parasitic infestation treatment for all public school pupils. It is urging the government to prioritize funding for deworming tablets. A chewable deworming tablet costs only P15 to P30.

At present, only those who enter schools are given this treatment, and only once. Lack of funds and political will are among the barriers to proper treatment, said Belizario.

"There may even be a need for legislation to allocate funds for all 2 to 14 year olds (for deworming)," Belizario said.

Belizario said HSG's periodic mass treatment was used in the whole school district in Binan, Laguna, with the help of local government and education officials.

"The mass treatment...showed us how to approach the worm problem. After one year with two treatments of albendazole, the infestation rate showed a reduction of about 70 percent. This gave us an idea how to clear these kids of common worms," he added.

SciScope

World Ostomy Day

WITH THE THEME "Yes, we can!" ostomates will mark World Ostomy Day on Saturday, Oct. 5. The observance intends to show that ostomates, or persons with stomas, can do what persons without stomas can do.

A stoma is an artificial body opening created through surgery to restore function to organs, usually the bowel or bladder, impaired by disease like cancer, injury or inborn conditions.

Marilou Buenaventura, acting president of the Ostomy Association of the Philippines (OAP), also announced the holding of the 4th Asian Ostomy Association Conference in Manila from Oct. 23 to 26.

The OAP is inviting ostomates, members of their families, health professionals, caregivers and all concerned individuals to join the conference. For more information, call 733-3485.

Free clinic

THE PHYSICAL Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine Section of the San Juan de Dios Hospital will hold a free clinic and lay forum on Oct. 5.

A free geriatric workout session will be held from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. The free clinic will be from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and includes consultation, physical and occupational therapy, peripheral bone scan, ECG and a starter dose of prescribed medicine.

A forum on osteoporosis and arthritis will be held at 2:30 p.m.

For details, call up Daisy or Adrian at 831-9731 local 1122 or 1123.

Cancer docs meet

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Oncologists Inc. (PSO) will hold its 18th annual convention on Oct. 25-26 at the Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Hotel. The theme for this year's event is "New Frontiers and Traditional Values in Cancer Care."

The convention will feature Dr. Bhadrasain Vikram of the International Atomic Energy Agency and other distinguished foreign and local speakers who will discuss issues on oncologic emergencies, traditional values (caring and coping) and new frontiers in the diagnosis and management of cancer.

For details contact the PSO secretariat at Room 803, St. Luke's Medical Center, Quezon City or call 724-5219 or 723-0301 local 5803 and look for Cristy or Weng.

Baby congress

LEARN about the emotional and psychological care of your child during a series of lectures at the 2nd Baby Magazine-National Baby Congress on Oct. 4 at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

The congress is part of the 6th anniversay of Baby Magazine. For details call 840-1897 or 893-0534.

Join a science club

EUREKA!

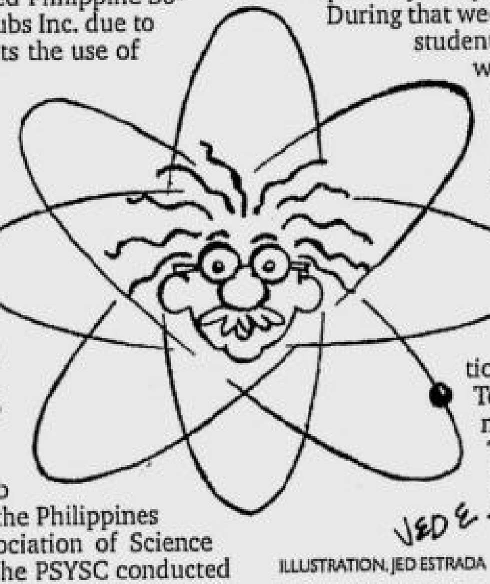
Queena N. Lee-Chua

IN THE EARLY to mid-1990s, I had the fortune of serving as vice chair of the board of trustees of the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs (PSYSC), the umbrella organization of all such clubs in the nation. Then senator Orly Mercado was chair and Anna Lea Uy and Analisa Balares spearheaded the organization at that time, and I remember conducting workshops and delivering inspirational messages to PSYSC members. I also featured the PSYSC in a couple of magazine articles, which were subsequently included in my book "In the Beginning and Other Scientific Journeys" (Bookmark, 1993).

A month ago I was pleasantly surprised to note that the PSYSC is still going strong. PSYSC officer Tara Thusette Tambolero informed me about their current activities. Since September is National Science Club Month, I decided to focus on the PSYSC. Tara provides a capsule history of the PSYSC—in the words of the members themselves:

On March 5, 1971, 26 science fair winners decided to organize the National Science Clubs of the Philippines, under the guidance of the Science Foundation of the Philippines (SFP). When it was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission in 1974, the organization was renamed Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs Inc. due to a regulation that prohibits the use of "national" in the name of private corporations. A constitution and by-laws were ratified and a broader objective—the promotion of science consciousness among the youth through the coordination of science club activities—was adapted.

The science club movement flourished under the SFP. Together with the Science Club Advisers Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Association of Science and Math Supervisors, the PSYSC conducted science fairs, camps, symposium, quizzes and other activities geared toward the promotion of public understanding of science, technology and the environment.



ILLUSTRATION, JED ESTRADA

Science club month

In 1979, then President Ferdinand Marcos signed Presidential Decree 1895 declaring September of every year as the National Science Club Month (NSCM). This was later ratified by President Corazon Aquino through Proclamation 28.

Thus, in a month-long celebration, competitions are held every September. Examples are the Quiz Bee, Science Olympics and Math-sci-a-ka. The latter includes the Math Situationer, Math Trail and Math Stimulator. Each contest is divided into two categories: elementary and high school. This year the contests are slated on two Saturdays (Sept. 21 and today) at UP Diliman Solair.

The PSYSC underwent its share of trials—notably bureaucratic organization which forced the members to rely on themselves more. In 1990, it conducted the National Youth Science and Technology Summer Camp on its own for the first time. Conducted in 1996 was, the 1st National Children's Interactive Workshop, an activity designed to promote ST&E among its elementary schools affiliates. To meet the demands of changing times, the organization amended its constitution during the 1998 National Centennial Youth Science Leaders' Conference in Baguio City.

Another successful project was the Children Science Interactive Workshop (CSIW) to promote interest in science, technology and environment among the organization's elementary affiliates. Composed of interactive workshops, it is usually held during the last week of October. It was designed to provide fun and interaction among young science clubbers while they learned important scientific concepts.

The CSIW was successfully pilot-tested in 1994 in Antipolo, Rizal for Metro Manila students. The following year, a Luzon-wide CSIW was conducted at UP Diliman, Quezon City. The activity went into full swing during the 1st National CSIW in Cebu City in 1996 with 150 participants. This number increased to 480 during the 2nd National CSIW in Davao City. Since then, the National CSIW has been an annual project of the organization.

Chemistry in action

This year, the National CSIW will be held on Oct. 23-27 at the Upper Mau Inns, Subic, Olongapo City. This year's theme is "React: Chemistry in Action," a Survivor edition inspired by the popular reality TV show. During that week, the PSYSC will open students' eyes to a chemical world like atoms and gases that cannot be seen with the naked eye. The intriguing Periodic Table will be explored and how it came about and other interesting facts about it.

A third major project is the National Youth Science, Technology and Environment Summer Camp. This six-day activity participated in by high school students from all over the Philippines is composed of lectures and workshops, educational trips and plant visits. It includes the Sportsfest, Cultural Night, Quiz Show, Candle-Lighting Ceremony and Socials Night for further interaction among its participants.

The first Summer Camp, which is considered to be the first of its kind in Southeast Asia, was successfully conducted at the UP College of Agriculture in May 1971. The following year, it was held in Siliman University, Dumaguete City. Every year, summer camps are conducted, each one geared toward the development and scientific empowerment of the members.

The 2002 National Youth Science, Technology and Environment Summer Camp focused on the importance of engineering in the world. The theme of the camp is "Engineering the Future." It was held at UP Diliman last April 10-16 with more than 800 participants housed in the three dormitories of the university. Lectures were held in the University Film Center and workshops in the College of Engineering.

The PSYSC also conducts an annual search for outstanding science clubs and advisers nationwide. Truly, the student-led and student-centered organization has grown tremendously. Its programs and projects are now more comprehensive. Its affiliation has increased substantially, reaching more than 300,000 schools in the fiscal year 1999-2000, and attendance in its activities continue to grow. For more information on the PSYSC, contact Tara Tambolero at tara_thusette.tambolero@up.edu.ph.

* * *

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D. is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes the column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net every Wednesday. Contact her at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

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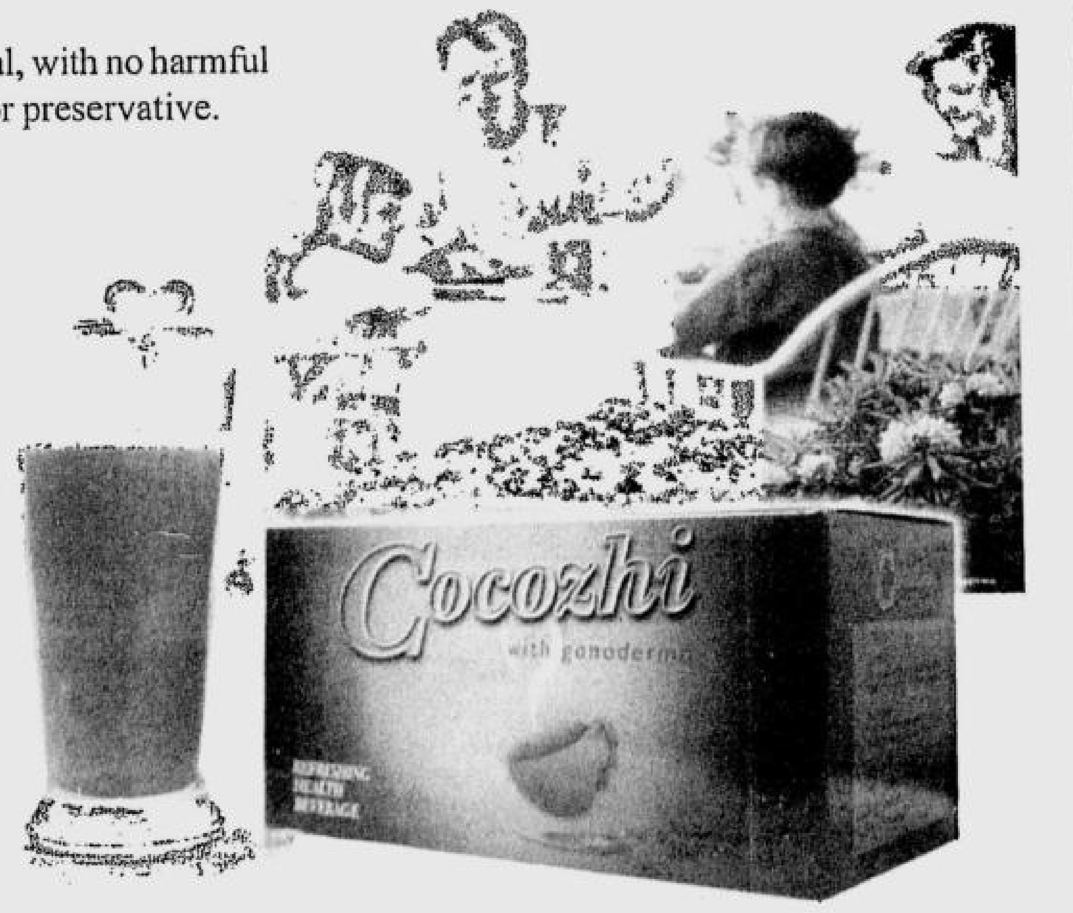

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The Filipino physician profile

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

I FELT depressed the night Solita "Mare" Monsod and Oca "Pare" Orbos posed this question to their "Debate" audience: "Safe *pa bang magpakonsulta kay* Doc?"

Of those who responded through text message, 52 percent replied "No" to the question. This suggested that trust and confidence, which are essential components in the patient-doctor relationship, are slowly being replaced by a casual client-businessman transaction, with both parties eyeing each other suspiciously.

My wife, Becky, who is also a physician, tried to console me by saying "it's only a slim majority and it's not statistically significant." But even if it's only 30, 20 or just 10 percent who answered "No," it's still something the medical community should seriously ponder on.

There was a time when the Filipino doctor was held in high esteem by the community. Next to the priest and other religious ministers, the doctor was regarded as someone you could trust with your most intimate secrets, and your life.

The emerging perception today, however, stares at the doctor in the face. These almost childish squabbles about "malpractising doctors in dainty white uniforms" are starting to paint—quite unfairly—a bad picture of the doctor by generalizing isolated and anecdotal cases as prevalent occurrences. The current debate has already inflicted much harm on the trust-based doctor-patient relationship.

Like faith healers

In a way, doctors are like faith healers. A patient sometimes feels better just by seeing his doctor because he has faith in him. A doctor will never wish his patients harm. Take away this faith, and the healing process, even in the best of hands and facilities, may be compromised. Any doctor will tell you that it's always difficult to treat a doubting patient.

Dr. Homobono "HB" Calleja, through Gynna Gagelonia, publicist of the Philippine Heart Association, e-mailed me a beautiful description of the profile of the Filipino physician. Reading it made me feel good that I'm a doctor and not something else. Dr. Calleja is a well-respected professor and leader in the medical community, being a past president of the Philippine Medical Association, Philippine College of Physicians and Philippine College of Cardiology. He says:

THE DOCTOR IS
IN
JED E.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

"Of all professional careers, the medical profession makes direct contact with the broad spectrum of the humanity of man in all seasons. From the first signs of gestation to the agonal heartbeat of a human being, the physician sees life aborting, growing to the vigor and vitality of youth, the strength of power of manhood, and in autumn the inevitable decline of his faculties and biologic functions. No professional has seen birth and death more often and in all its variation than a physician.

'Advocate of life'

"Truly, only the physician sees the kaleidoscopic spectacle of life from cradle to grave, not merely as a passive witness to creation, development, growth and end of life, but as an active, caring advocate of life. His intricately woven knowledge of the chemistry of carbons and the electricity of atoms of life makes him the healer of the body. Much more, the physician knows too well he heals only as an instrument of the Great Physician.

"No one can touch one's life more intimately than a physician. He cures and cares for the sick in war and in peace, in plenty and in famine, in happiness, excitement and in sorrow. In every human drama, the physician plays a part.

"His presence is quite evident in emergencies and disasters and in life and death situations at the bedside, emergency room or in open battlefields of ambitious men. He may walk unnoticed among a carefree crowd of people and he would not mind it the least. In fact, he is really shy and soft-spoken, not wanting attention and recognition.

"The physician is oriented by schooling, training and experience to be the guardian of the physical faculties of men. He has the highest respect for the Great Physician and firmly believes that healing is both curing and caring for the totality of the human being as a sick patient. He performs the task of healing by invoking the guidance of the Divine and accepts humbly his limitations.

"He is law-abiding and more often than not, a peacemaker. He delivers babies into this world, repairs broken bones and homes and makes the transit into another life a happy event to the dying and to those who are left behind.

"All in a day's work, the physician prays to the Creator for a clear mind to find the source of illness, to see clearly the signs of disease, to hear the cry of those in pain and to articulate the words of compassion, love and hope to those in grief.

"At his deathbed, he manages to smile, thinking of his services to mankind. Indeed, the physician has vowed to touch the lives of men in the noblest manner when he pledged in his Hippocratic Oath 'to consecrate my life to the service of humanity.'"

"Toward the centennial of Philippine Medical Association in 2003, the physician will continue to touch lives in reaffirmation of his covenant to mankind. As a gentle reminder in these troubled times created by the malpractice bill in our Congress, this updated Hippocratic Oath of 1998 is apropos:

Hippocrates circa 400 BC be my light
Service not for profit is my bond
Healing a gift from the Great Physician
Knows no barriers to my utmost care.
My ballpark is not for sale
My expertise not for auction
I shall keep the trust of the sick,
Cure, care, comfort my signature.
I am the trustee of the sick
By schooling, training and profession
No law shall stay my healing hand
Not profit becloud my noble call."

What Asians think about GM foods

By Cesar D. Mangawang

MOST Asian consumers are not strongly opposed to genetically modified foods. They even wanted to know how biotechnology could improve the quality of food they eat every day.

This was revealed by the Asian Food Information Center (Afic), which released the results of the second survey of Asian consumer knowledge and attitudes toward foods derived from modern biotechnology during the International Rice Congress held recently in Beijing.

Key findings

The following findings reflect what consumers in Asia really think about genetically modified foods.

- Sixty-six percent of consumers surveyed believe they would personally benefit from food biotechnology during the next five years.
- The most valued benefits were eating quality, nutritional value and reduction in chemical usage on crops. Other commonly mentioned potential benefits were improved shelf life, less chemical pesticides on food, and reduced cost of food.
- Sixty-one percent believe they had eaten biotechnology foods recently. More than 90 percent of those who believe they had, were satisfied with the situation and took no action to avoid it.
- More than 80 percent expressed their willingness to try a snack food containing genetically modified ingredients if offered a sample.

International market research firm Isis Research was commissioned by Afic to survey the current knowledge and attitudes of 600 consumers in China, Thailand and the Philippines on foods derived from biotechnology. Consumers were asked to express their views on genetically modified foods, what they knew about science and technology, what they would like to know, and where they would like to see further information being made available.

Said Afic executive director Georgina Cairns: "Food derived from biotechnology has been a topic of hot debate in the West, particularly in Europe. Many of those who are passionately 'for' or 'against' biotechnology foods are fond of quoting surveys of public opinion in Europe."

Cairns explained that Afic was not satisfied with the use of secondhand data from other parts of the world as a measure of public opinion here in Asia. She said that since 60 percent of the global population lives in Asia Pacific, this must surely merit a survey of actual public opinion in the region.

Consistent results

The 1999 and 2002 Afic surveys have consistent results. They found basic knowledge levels quite low but attitudes generally positive. According to both surveys, Asian consumers expressed optimism on the benefits that biotechnology could bring to their diet, and would like more information.

Asian consumers prefer as primary sources of information mass media channels such as newspapers, television and increasingly the Internet. They believe that mass media have a key role to play in providing information, but prefer that scientists and government agencies play a more active role in also providing this information.

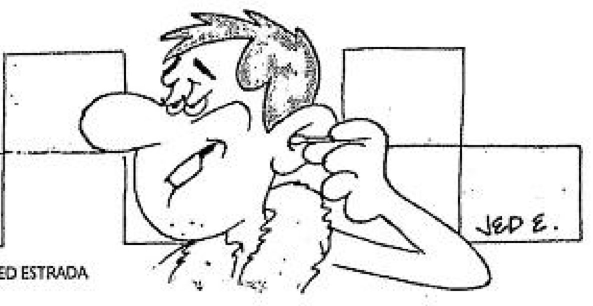


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

The earwax gene

DISCOVER

Massie K. Santos

THE MERE thought of earwax often makes people uncomfortable because it raises the issue of personal hygiene. A person's inability to follow a conversation may at times be due to the simple fact that he lately hasn't removed any earwax, preventing sound waves from entering his head.

Few people may be aware of the fact that earwax is of great interest to the scientific community and has been for decades.

Some months ago, a paper appeared in The Lancet announcing that by an accident of fate the location of the earwax gene had been pegged as Chromosome 16. This discovery is expected to have a major effect on research in the fields of breast cancer and body odor.

Also known as cerumen, earwax is produced by apocrine glands, the sweat glands connected to hair follicles that can be found in the armpits and genital areas. Although apocrine glands are present from birth, they are triggered when puberty begins, which is why children can sweat and smell good, but adults and teenagers must turn to deodorants and baths when faced with activity-filled days. (Not that baths and deodorants should be avoided the rest of the time.)

More important, however, the apocrine glands have long been associated with the development of breast cancer, which would account for the astonishing number of papers written over the years on the subject. Since there are apocrine glands in the breast, it has been suggested by several scientists from various research organizations and institutions that increased earwax leads to increased susceptibility to breast cancer.

The statement is admittedly broad and generalized, so no one should be panicking just yet and frantically cleaning their ears. It would be a shame to have the supermarkets reporting a run on anything that could be used to clean ears with. What people should be doing with their earwax isn't checking the amount, but rather noting if the wax is crusty or sticky.

Only two types

The single most fascinating piece of information about the earwax gene (to me, anyway) is the fact that earwax can only be either dry, crusty and grey/white to light brown in color or wet and sticky and brown.

The entire planet is populated by the "Dry Earwax People" and the "Wet Earwax People." A person's earwax cannot be both sticky and crusty at the same time, unless he cleaned his ears right after taking a bath. (In that case the earwax is really dry, or else the crust wouldn't form at all.)

An equally fascinating idea researchers have come up with is that since earwax and body odor are secreted by apocrine glands, then a person with dry earwax is more likely to have less developed apocrine glands in the breast, and therefore a lesser degree of body odor. In other words, rejoice if you have dry earwax because you won't smell as much and as those with wet earwax.

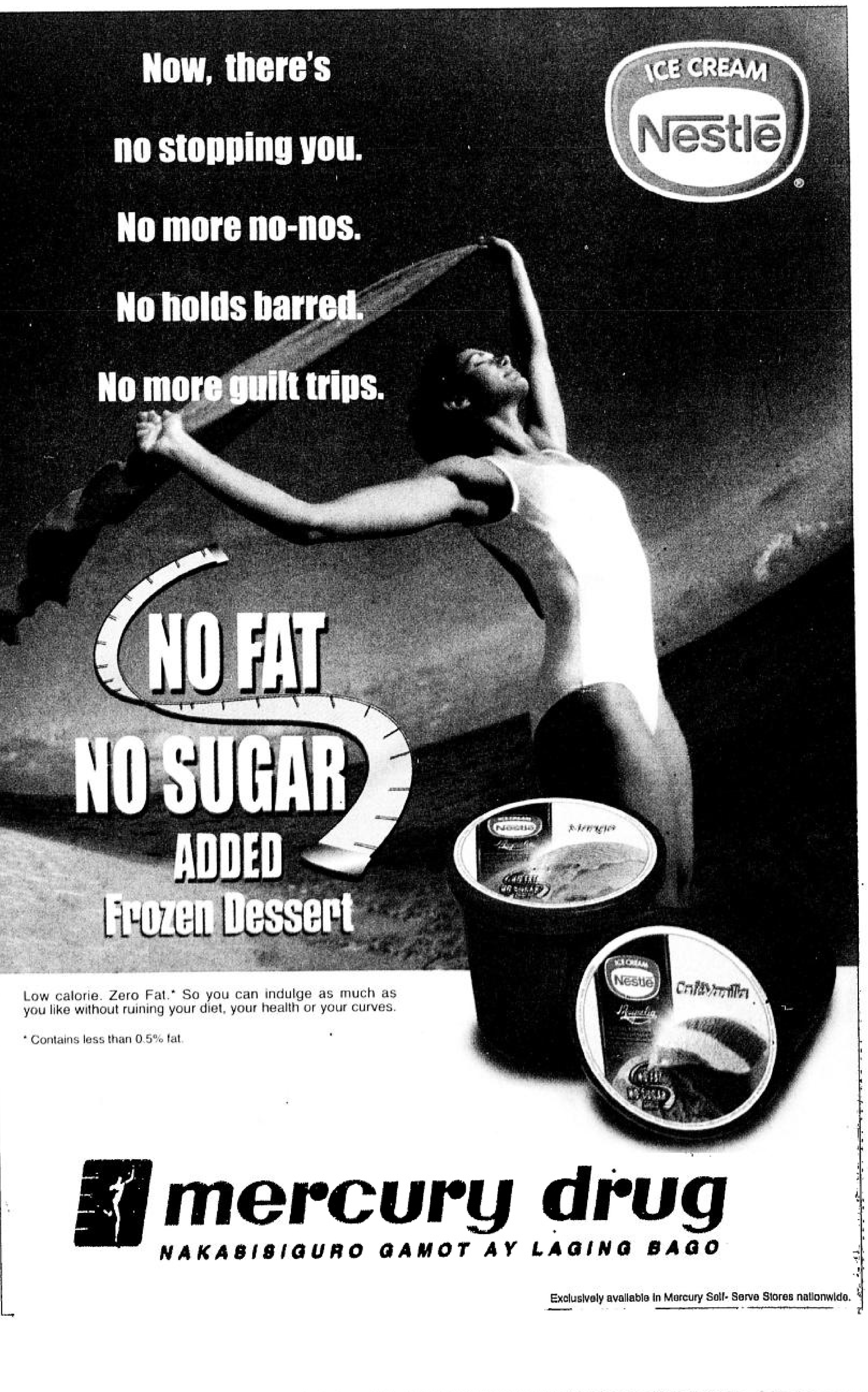
Now for the complicated part of the earwax equation: determining who has what.

To quote Dr. Hiroaki Tomita and his colleagues from the Nagasaki School of Medicine: "Wet earwax is frequent in whites and African Americans, whereas dry earwax is common among Asian people and Native Americans, and is of intermediate frequency in populations in eastern Europe, the Middle East, the Pacific islands and South Africa."

The words "of intermediate frequency" shouldn't make anyone think I've contradicted my earlier statement. Rather, they should be thinking about where these areas lie on the map.

The Middle East was overrun by Europeans at least a dozen of times during the Crusades in the Middle Ages. Africa and several countries in the Pacific—yes, even our own beloved nation unless people have forgotten their history—were European colonies. Relationships between people of different races have led to a melding of bloodlines. And because wet earwax is the dominant trait, anyone with Caucasian or African ancestors will have wet earwax as well.

If that piece of news doesn't make people want to research their family histories, I don't know what will.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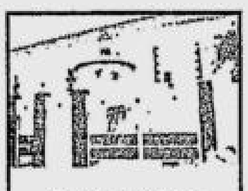

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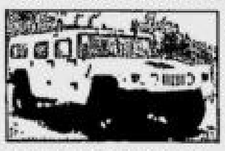

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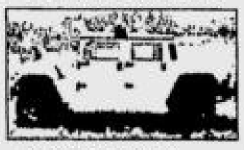

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2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

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2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

22T New Complt SR Impld 7767507

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GILBARCO FUEL PUMP DISPENSER
★Trimline 10units@P40T, Mechanical
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ELITE PIANO CENTER
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OTHER EQUIPMENT

5&7&10&29KVA 3610215

PETS

CHINESE SHARPEIS 3725231

DOG TRAINER 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

★PUGS★WRINKLED 3725231

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

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GYM Eqpt P25T(neg)4541531

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FEMALE

Asst Apt Manager 38yrs old UP College Level 438-2849

MALE/FEMALE

BEAUTY CONSULTANT 5276418

Exp. Barista 829-3317 Bio-Data 826-2004 FAX

Flower Arrangers 646-3479

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

HRD STF 09194639391 IRIS

HRD/OFC Staff 09186532375 Mia

OFC STAFF 09165218635 Echo

OFCSTF MARG 09183533401

Pastry Shop Server with prev. Cafe-Resto Experience Needed-San Juan Area Fax 7123829-Drop-Resume 338 Ortigas Ave Unit ABC

SUPERVISOR LEAH 5512308

Travel Assistant 8216148/8214761

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

Nuestra-Damus Pawnshop
Makati City

Auction Sale on **October 7, 2002** all unredeemed pledges during the month of May 1-31, 2002. Nuestra Br. II Pio-9:30am; Nuestra Br. I 10:30am; Damus Pasong Tamo-12:30pm; Nuestra Main -1:30pm; Nuestra Br. IX Zapote 3:00pm.

Sons of J. Lanuza
Auctioneer

NUESTRA-DIAJADE PAWNSHOP
LAS PINAS METRO MANILA

Will have its auction sale on **October 09, 2002**. All unredeemed pledges during the month of May 1-31, 2002. Nuestra Br. IV Sucat-8:30am; Diajade Main-9:30am; Diajade Br. II-10:30am; Diajade Br. I-1:00pm; Nuestra Almanza 2:00pm.

Sons of J. Lanuza
Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estates of the late spouses Concordia P. Portacio & Esteban M. Portacio had been the subject of Deed of Extra-Judicial Partition w/Waiver of Rights among their heirs on April 4, 2002, as per Doc. 36, Page 9, Book III of Notary Public Ernest S. Ang Jr. of Q.C. PDI-Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 2002

PERSONAL

THANK YOU VERY HOLY SPIRIT
Fr. Gemma Santos & Family

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

CLOSE VAN OWNERS Who want to be PARTNERS in Cargo Forwarding T-5343147 Mandy

RTW P28.00 Up 727-4934

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that the official receipts bearing serial no. **6735951-6736000**, issued to **Matucay National High School, Allacapan, Cagayan** have been lost. All transactions purportedly covered by it shall be dishonored.

(Sgd.) Mr. Epifanio T. Ulita
Principal

(PDI - Sept. 28, 29 & 30, 2002)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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0917-8371152

TRAVEL N EARN FR HOME 8531008 09178901851 earn-and-travel.com

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PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION

PROPERTY DISPOSAL SALE

SEALED BID SALE of used 1993 GMC Rally van; 1994 Chevrolet Astro van and miscellaneous scrap materials.

INSPECTION OF PROPERTY: October 1 to 2, 2002; 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM at IBB/PTS (formerly Voice of America), Tinang, Concepcion, Tarlac. Submission of bids and 20% bond in cash or Manager's check will be on October 3, 2002 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

POC: Joel Diamzon or Belle Corporation
Tel. Nos.: (045) 982-0254/ 055

(PDI – Sept. 28 & 29, 2002)

1999 Honda SIR
20T kms, 550K Neg.
Immaculate condition,
Owner migrating
Ctc 8144600 (Off), 8937376
(Home) or 0918 9053703

POEA 24-HR
HOTLINES
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722-1155

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Termite & Pest Control Services

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

(1) JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT

- CPA
- At least 2 years experience in General Accounting
- Not more than 28 years old
- Proficiency in MS Office a must
- Proficiency in Accounting Software
- Well-organized and able to work under pressure

SERVICE TECHNICIANS (For Pest Control)

- Male
- College level/High School graduate
- Preferably with valid Driver's License
- Can speak English
- Not more than 24 years old
- Possesses good moral character

Interested applicants may apply in person at NO KA OI (Philippines) International Incorporated, Unit 708 Richville Corporate Center, 1314 Commerce Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Interview will be on September 30, 2002. Please bring your Resumé, Transcript of Records, 2x2 picture, NBI Clearance and Employment Certificate.

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LAWYERS

- must be successful examinees of 2000 and 2001 Bar Exams
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- must be willing to do litigation and corporate work

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422 N.S. Amoranto St., corner D. Tuazon Avenue,
Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City, M.M.

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ACCOUNTANTS

- must have at least three (3) years experience in accounting practice
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Please apply in person with comprehensive resumé and ID picture from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Tuesdays and Thursdays only at:

Rm. 2K Edificio Enriqueta
422 N.S. Amoranto Street, cor. D. Tuazon Avenue,
Quezon City, Metro Manila

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED COOPERATIVE BANK OF LANAO DEL SUR (CBLDS)

1. Starting September 30, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly designated Transferee Bank, the Philippine National Bank – Marawi Branch shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed **Cooperative Bank of Lanao del Sur (CBLDS).**
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the Philippine National Bank – Marawi Branch located at Perez Street, Marawi City, Lanao del Sur. from September 30, 2002 to December 12, 2003, Mondays thru Fridays. during regular banking hours.

   Depositors may also file their claims personally at the PDIC office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by mail addressed to –

   The Manager
   Claims Processing Department
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to PNB – Marawi Branch authorized personnel when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents may be required by the PDIC through its Transferee Bank for the processing and/or settlement of the claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591, as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Cooperative Bank of Lanao Del Sur is on **December 12, 2003.** After **December 12, 2003**, PDIC as insurer and PNB – Marawi Branch, as Transferee Bank shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – Sept. 27 & 28, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE
Bids and Awards Committee

Bldg No. 3 San Lazaro Cmpd.,
Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Telefax No. 743-7230
Trunkline No. 743-83-01
Local # 1330

INVITATION FOR BID

Loan No 1396-PH(SF)
IFB No. ICHSP-2002 004LAN

1. The Government of the Philippines through the **Department of Health (DoH)** has received a loan from the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** towards the cost of the **INTEGRATED COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES PROJECT (ICHSP)**, and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the **Supply, Delivery and Installation of Local Area Network Equipment to ICHSP Replication Provinces.**
2. The DoH desires to procure the Goods described and itemized in the Bid Document through International Shopping in accordance with the applicable guidelines of the ADB, and now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from member countries of ADB for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Local Area Network Equipment to ICHSP Replication Provinces.

SCHEDULE OF BID ACTIVITIES:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	September 30, 2002	
Deadline of Issuance of Bid Documents	November 4, 2002	
Pre-Bid Conference	October 22, 2002	2:00 PM
Deadline of Submission of Bids	November 6, 2002	2:00 PM
Opening of Bids	November 6, 2002	2:01 PM

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the **Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), 2nd Floor, Building 25, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.**
4. Complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder at this address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PhP5,000.00)** or **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY US DOLLARS (US$250.00)** including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of payment will be in cash, or in the form of a bank draft. Information including names of potential bidders and contact persons, telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.
5. A pre-bidding conference will be held on the scheduled date at the ICHSP conference room, **4th Floor, Philippine Tuberculosis Society (PTS) Building, Tayuman Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila**
6. Bids must be delivered to the address stated below on or before the deadline of submission of bids, after which all bids will be immediately opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of not less than two percent (2%) of the Total Bid Price in the currency of the bid or any freely convertible currency. Late bids shall be rejected.

CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Ground Floor, Building No. 3
San Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila

7. The DoH reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to DoH and to local health units

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary of Health and
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI - Sept. 28 & Oct. 6, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court invites prospective bidders to pre-qualify and participate in the public bidding to be conducted pursuant to Executive Order No. 40 and other applicable issuances for the provision of JANITORIAL and SECURITY SERVICES for the Halls of Justice for the period January 2003 to June 2003 located at:

CLUSTER III (CENTRAL LUZON)

1. Malolos, Bulacan
2. San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan
3. Angeles City, Pampanga
4. Balanga, Bataan
5. Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
6. Camiling, Tarlac
7. Capas, Tarlac
8. Dinalupihan, Bataan
9. Gerona, Tarlac
10. Iba, Zambales
11. Morong, Bataan
12. Olongapo City
13. Palayan City, Nueva Ecija
14. Paniqui, Tarlac
15. San Fernando City, Pampanga
16. San Jose City, Nueva Ecija
17. Tarlac City, Tarlac
18. Victoria, Tarlac

CLUSTER VI (WESTERN VISAYAS)

1. Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
2. Bago City, Negros Occidental
3. Banga, Aklan
4. Barotac Viejo, Iloilo
5. Binalbagan, Negros Occidental
6. Dumangas, Iloilo
7. Guihulngan, Negros Occidental
8. Guimbal, Iloilo
9. Iloilo City
10. Janiuay, Iloilo
11. Kalibo, Aklan
12. La Carlota City, Negros Occidental
13. Malinao, Aklan
14. Mambusao, Capiz
15. Pototan, Iloilo
16. Roxas City, Capiz
17. Sagay City, Negros Occidental
18. San Carlos City, Negros Occidental
19. San Jose, Antique
20. Victorias City, Negros Occidental

CLUSTER X (NORTHERN MINDANAO)

1. Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental
2. Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental
3. Ozamis City, Misamis Occidental
4. Tangub City, Misamis Occidental
5. Balingasag, Misamis Oriental
6. Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental
7. Kinoguitan, Misamis Oriental
8. Loreto, Surigao del Norte
9. Mambajao, Camiguin
10. Medina, Misamis Oriental
11. Buenavista, Agusan del Norte
12. Butuan City, Agusan del Norte
13. Dapa, Surigao del Norte
14. Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte
15. Nasipit, Agusan del Norte
16. Surigao City, Surigao del Norte

The approved budget for the clusters are as follows:

	For JANITORIAL	For SECURITY
Cluster III	3,221,131.26	7,910,459.52
Cluster VI	2,062,272.00	5,198,400.00
Cluster X	1,336,422.00	4,226,970.00
	6,619,825.26	17,335,829.52

to be charged against the funds appropriated for the Maintenance of the HOJ (MOOE). The prospective bidder's Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) based on his net working capital must at least be equal to the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Prospective bidders shall indicate the cluster they want to bid for and the type of service they want to render. Those bidding for more than one cluster shall file separate pre-qualification form/bids for each cluster.

Prospective bidders may secure pre-qualification requirements from Mr. Ernie Sasis, Committee on Halls of Justice, 7th floor, Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila from September 30 to October 7, 2002, 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Pre-qualification requirements will be furnished the prospective bidders after payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00.

I. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

All pre-qualification requirements of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the authorized representatives as follows:

a. for JANITORIAL SERVICES - on or before Tuesday, October 15, 2002, at 1:30 p.m. at the Old Session Hall, SC;
b. for SECURITY SERVICES - on or before Wednesday, October 16, 2002, at 1:30 p.m. at the Old Session Hall, SC.

The Committee on Halls of Justice shall evaluate the pre-qualification requirements on the respective scheduled dates of submission.

II. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

The pre-bid conference for pre-qualified bidders for JANITORIAL and SECURITY services shall be on Tuesday, October 22 and Wednesday, October 23, 2002, respectively at 10:00 a.m. at the Old Session Hall, SC.

III. OPENING OF BIDS

Only bids of pre-qualified bidders for janitorial and security services who participated in the pre-bid conference will be accepted and opened in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives.

a. for JANITORIAL SERVICES - on Tuesday, November 5, 2002, 10:00 a.m. at the Old Session Hall, SC.
b. for SECURITY SERVICES - on Wednesday, November 6, 2002, 10:00 a.m. at the Old Session Hall, SC.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids or offer, waive any defect or informality therein and accept the offer which it deems most advantageous to the Court.

September 26, 2002.

(Sgd.) **VIRGINIA ANCHETA-SORIANO**
Working Chairperson
Committee on Halls of Justice

(PDI–Sept. 28 & Oct. 6, 2002)

FUNERARIA QUIOGUE
MAIN: 67 Pasig Blvd. Ext., Pasig City Tel. Nos. 641-7909 • 641-1735
BRANCH: 542 M. Almeda Street, Pateros Tel. Nos. 642-3010
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- IMPORTED YORK CASKET
- METRO MANILA and PROVINCIAL SERVICES
- PROMPT, RELIABLE and PERSONALIZED SERVICE

OBITUARIES

YORK (U.S.A.) CASKETS
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*For more information, please call your funeral director

Message of Thanks

Dr. Elizabeth Suarez-Esperanzate

July 31, 1957 - August 20, 2002
(MCU Batch 1984)
(former Medical Officer, TUP - Manila)

Husband **Marlo**; children **Maribeth (†)**, **Elmar**, **Marielle**, **Marlo Jr.**, **Ellie Marie**; parents **Dr. Ascension Suarez & Mrs. Priscilla De Dios-Suarez**; parents-in-law **Pacifico & Encarnacion Esperanzate**; brother **Jinny** and sister **Evangeline**; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, sincerely convey their deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who condoled and comforted them during their time of sorrow. Thank you for the prayers, MASSES, flowers and acts of kindness you have given.

The family will be offering Masses on the occasion of her 40th day on September 28, 2002 at the following churches:

San Pedro Bautista Parish Church	5:30 AM & 6:00 PM
Sto. Domingo Church	6:30 AM
San Julian Parish Church (Iloilo)	

Again, our Thanks.

First Death Anniversary
SATURNINA ZARATE VDA. DE UYTIEPO
October 2, 2002

Masses will be celebrated at

San Sebastian Church	6:00 a.m.
St. Jude Church	6:30 a.m.
San Miguel Pro Cathedral	7:00 a.m.
Sta. Cruz Church	1:00 p.m.

Relatives and friends are requested to attend mass at any of the above churches and to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City Tels. 715-1025, 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (075) 522-3451, 522-2128, (0917) 434 5976
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch, A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543, 346-7601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City Tels. 231-0721, 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201, 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City
Tels. 740-2083, 781-3705, 781-3688, 413-9400, 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1080, (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102, 741-5125, 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3054
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812983, 2813034, 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959, (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City Tels. 646-1725, 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City Tels. 641-7909, 641-1735
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FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Pinas Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011
Tels. (044) 764-0281, 678-0266, (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite Tels. (046) 471-3375, 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42, (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City Tels. 825-1290, 825-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730, Cell (0917) 5680138, (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Palo St., Project 2, Quezon City, Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila
Tels. 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795, 732-2827
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11, 712-3001, 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque Tels. 820-1502, 825-9947, 825-8635
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City Tel. (074) 443-3337, (074) 442-3117
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite
Tels. (046) 471-3386, (046) 471-4417, (046) 471 1978
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EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City, Tels. 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tanong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98, 941-3676, Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal Tels. 645-1855, 682-0209; 682-0210
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960, 515-6529, 522-8783, (0919) 348-7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 713-5231 to 35, 714-0867, 714-0868
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St.
Mandalagan, Bacolod City Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City, Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376, 826-9682, (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City, Tel. Nos. 843-0836 30, Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City Tels. 852-8028, 852-7284
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Tels. 749-3679, 781-1772
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LUGARDA "Lording" F. SOY

of Carael District, Dagupan City
(widow of the late **Susante C. Soy, Sr.**)

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 25, 2002
at the age of 76.

Her beloved children **Angela (†)**, **Hedeliza & Ramon (†)**, **Susante Jr. & Elizabeth**, **Mercy & Mading**, **Virgie & Bill**, **Delia & Eugene**, **Marlyn & Nick**, **Ceferino & Evelyn**, **Judy & Rodel**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the family residence, Carael District, Dagupan City.

Interment tomorrow, Sunday, September 29, 2002, 9:00 AM at the Eternal Gardens, Dagupan City.

"I am the resurrectioin and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

ANTONIO JERUSALEM SIBULO, SR.

Peacefully joined the Lord and wife ROSARIO (†)
on September 26, 2002 at the age of 88.

His bereaved children and children-in-law **ANTONIO JR.**, **FERDINAND & GLORIA BRIGOLA**, **LOURDES & CALIXTO CATAQUIZ**, **FILEMON' & JOSEPHINE EDRADA**; grandchildren **KAREN**, **RITCHIE & KYLE**, **KORINA**, **KRISTEEN**, **FERDINAND JR.**, **ANTONIO III**, **ALEXIS**, **ARISTOTLE**, **ABIGAIL**, **AARON**, **ABRAHAM**, **JUAN LUIS**, **MARGARITA**, **JULIO**; sister **AMELIA JC STANFORD**; brothers **FILOMENO (†)** and family, **TEODORO & EMMA SIBULO**, **ELISEO**, **ABELARDO**, **RAMON CAPACETE**; **PRUDENCIO "PAL" AMIL** & family; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the family residence, #46 Sto. Niño Street, San Pedro, Laguna.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 1, 2002 at the Everlasting Peace Memorial Park at 1:00 p.m.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNIVERSARY
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The property may be inspected at the Main Disposal Warehouse and the Old Commissary, Seafront Compound, US Embassy, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City on **September 30 - October 2, 2002** from **8:30 a.m.** to **12:00 noon** and **1:00 p.m.** to **3:30 p.m.** Bids, accompanied by a cash deposit of at least 20% of the bid price, will be accepted during the inspection dates at the GSO Cashier located at Seafront Compound.

Please be advised that there is no vehicle access or parking available at the Seafront Compound. Pedestrian access will be limited to the Roxas Boulevard gate only.

For particulars, please contact:

Ms. Hilda M. Legaspi
Tel. No. 523-1001 Ext. 2702

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
OMBUDSMAN BLDG., AGHAM ROAD, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Office of the Ombudsman is inviting prospective bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for:

-01- set BIOMETRICS SYSTEM FOR TIME AND ATTENDANCE MONITORING WITH KEYPAD AND CARD READER
(Proximity or Bar Code)
"Fingerscan Technology" Attendance and Leave Monitoring System

Accreditation requirement and bidding documents may be secured from the Property Management Section/General Services Division, 2nd Floor, Ombudsman Building, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING:

1. Pre-Bid Conference	- **October 9, 2002 - 9:30 a.m.**
2. Deadline of Submission	
a. Prequalification Requirement	- **October 15, 2002 - 4:00 p.m.**
b. Sealed Technical and Financial Proposals	- **October 23, 2002 - 10:00 a.m.**
3. Opening of Bids	- **October 23, 2002 - 10:30 a.m.**

Bid documents will be issued upon payment of a Non-Refundable Fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00).

Financial proposal shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond either in the form of GSIS Bond, Cashier's/Manager's Check and/or Cash Bond of at least 2.5% of the total bid price.

The Office of the Ombudsman reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid, and to accept the bids most advantageous to the office.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ERNESTO M. NOCOS**
Assistant Ombudsman - PACPO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept 27 28 & 29 2002)

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People, Events & Products
Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Canada tops immigration target

CANADA continues to attract record numbers of new immigrants. In 2001, 250,346 new landings were recorded, 11 percent more than the targeted level of 225,000. This is the second consecutive year it has surpassed its immigration target.

This was relayed by lawyer Bayani F. Abesamis, a Canadian immigration lawyer. "These figures attest to Canada's ability to draw people with skills, talent and capital from all over the world. Canada's reputation as one of the best places in the world to live in and its immigrant-friendly policies have been instrumental in setting this trend. And Canada is doing its best to assure that it continues to be a major immigrant destination by fine-tuning its immigration laws and regulations."

Among these measures is the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Irpa) which took effect this June 28. The Irpa is a major redesign of Canadian immigration law aimed, among others, at attracting "the best and the brightest" to Canada. A new system for selecting independent immigrants was implemented together with the Irpa.

Skilled workers comprised the largest new immigrant group, accounting for 54.76 percent of new arrivals. Family class immigrants accounted for 26.62 percent, while business immigrants represented 5.82 percent of new landings. Filipinos remain the fourth largest immigrant group to Canada. In 2001, 12,900 new immigrants from the Philippines made Canada their new home. "Family class sponsorships have been the usual avenue for Filipinos to immigrate to Canada. But the new independent immigrant selection system, with its emphasis on education, experience and language skills, areas in which Filipinos traditionally excel, could open new doors for Filipinos desiring to immigrate to Canada," Abesamis states.

Abesamis, who maintains offices in Canada and the Philippines, will hold seminars on the new independent immigrant selection system in Makati City from Oct. 11 to 26. For more information, call 814-0709 or 813-3482.

MILLION
DOLLAR

NIPPON LIFE MDRT QUALIFIERS

Nippon Life Philippines recently sent its top producers to the 2002 Million-Dollar Round Table (MDRT) conference in Nashville, Tennessee. The MDRT is an international association of top life insurance agents in the world. Despite being relatively new in the industry, Nippon Life has already managed to produce 7 qualifiers to this year's MDRT. Shown are Nippon Life's MDRT Qualifiers beside the MDRT logo (from left) Medee Herrera, life and qualifying member Nenita Alano, John Jimenez, second time qualifier Dorothy Ong and Jaydee Ong. Nippon Life Philippines is a joint venture between the respected Yuchengco Group of Companies and top Japanese insurer, Nippon Life Japan (NLJ). Fortune Magazine in its July 2002 Global 500 issue ranked Nippon Life Japan as the world's largest life insurance company.

San Miguel Packaging joins Packaging Philippines Expo 2002

SAN MIGUEL Packaging Products (SMPP) is holding a presentation on contract packaging at the Packaging Philippines 2002 Exhibition until today at the World Trade Center Manila.

The exhibition is touted as the biggest convergence of industry leaders, professionals and businessmen in the packaging industry. SMPP's presentation is part of the Packaging Institute of the Philippines technical forum, which is held alongside the usual exhibition.

Titled "Contract Packaging: Outsourcing your Filling Needs a Better Way to Bring your Products to the Shelf," the event will feature SMPP officials discussing the recent trends and opportunities in the industry.

"Contract packaging is now becoming a trend in the industry. More and more companies are outsourcing their non-core activities such as filling operations to concentrate on core functions such as brand management," explains Roberto Jose S. Da Silva, SMPP industry manager.

He also notes that both small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large firms stand to benefit in availing the services of external packaging companies.

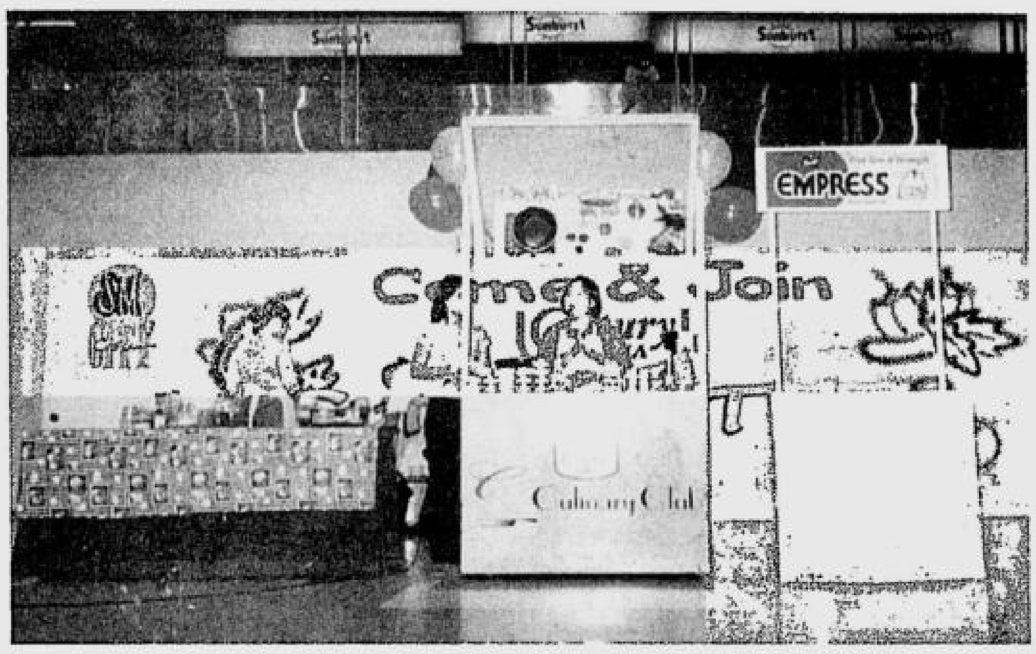
"For large companies, contract packaging offers them the flexibility to introduce new products immediately and to change packaging formats when the trend dictates it. They are not hindered by the need for large capital investments nor limited to the use of their existing equipment," Da Silva says.

He adds: "For SMEs whose volumes do not justify the acquisition of a machine, this answers their need on how to bring their products to the market."

Da Silva and SMPP contract packaging technical specialist Jose V. Carandang made the presentation Sept. 25.

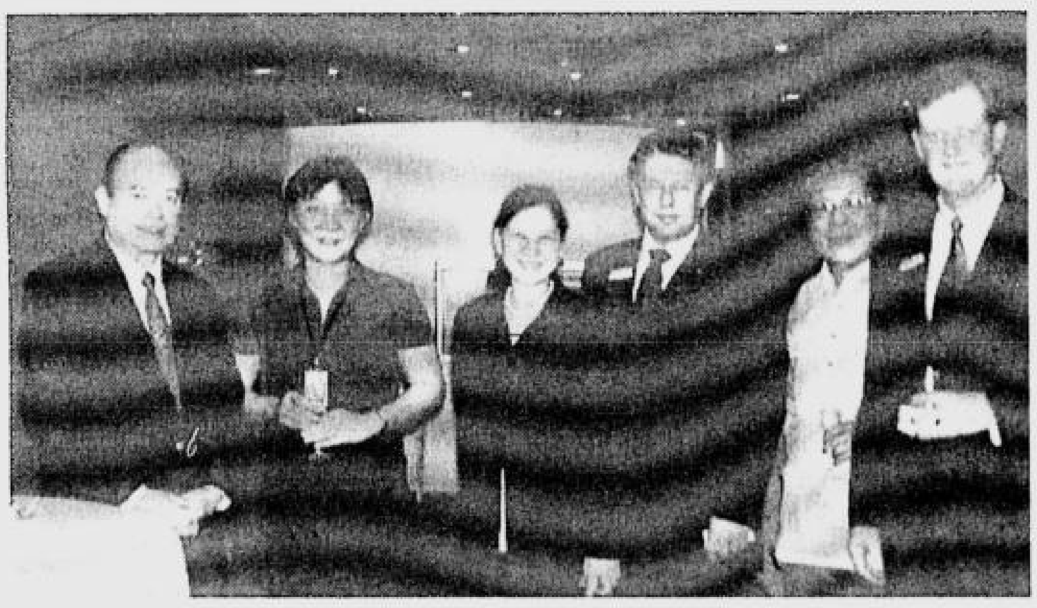
Aside from the presentation, SMPP will again run its "Packaging Clinic" where packaging specialists will be available for one-on-one consultation for a specific topic on a designated date.

Today, at 4 p.m., SMPP packaging technology and development manager Abner S. Villahermosa will talk about improving sales through better packaging.



THE CENTURY CULINARY TOUR CONQUERS CEBU CITY

Delightful recipes using Century Tuna were demonstrated by Chef Gigi C. Angkaw recently at SM City in Cebu. The audience cheerfully sampled dishes such as Tuna Taco Salad, Tuna burger Mushroom Melt, Baked Tuna Macaroni, Cheesy Tuna Triangles and many more. The event was sponsored by Lady's Choice Mayonnaise, Homepride Pasta, Hunt's, Empress Table Napkins, Campbell's, Argentina Corned Beef, Argentina Liver Spread, Raffles & Company, Pril, CDO Sweet Ham and Du Pont Teflon Cookwares.



THREE-WAY PARTNERSHIP

SAP recently co-hosted an evening launching the BMW 7 series. This was attended by executives from the San Miguel Group to celebrate the three-way partnership between SAP, BMW and Smits Inc. – an SAP implementing partner. SAP's leading financial accounting system was implemented at BMW Philippines. The system enables online, real-time processing of business transactions and automated approval of payment anywhere in the world through integration with an Internet-based banking facility. Shown, from left, are Francisco Eizmendi Jr., consultant, office of the chair, San Miguel Corp. (SMC), Maria Socorro Arceo, BMW Philippines finance and SAP project manager, Jennifer Ligones, industry manager, SAP Philippines, Mark Gilbert, BMW Group Philippines president and managing director, Alberto Manlapit, SMC senior vice president for corporate quality management and Smits chair, and Alexander Thorwirth, finance director, BMW Group Philippines treasurer and finance director.

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP ORGANIZED

Patients of the Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Department, Philippine Heart Center, Quezon City have banded together and formed what is called Stroke Survivors Support Foundation Inc. or the 3-S Foundation, with Dr. Ricardo B. Agbayani, a respected rehab doctor, head of the Department and a former dean in UST, as its adviser. Shown above are the officers of the 3-S Foundation following their recent induction into office. Front row, seated, are Jim T. Nibungco PhD., vice president, lawyer Ed Tolentino, president, and Esperanza Hilado, board member. Standing are Francis Lee, PRO, Ruby B. Lopez, auditor, Carmen L. Nibungco, secretary, Dr. Cora J. Lagman, treasurer, Dr. Ricardo B. Agbayani, adviser, and Demy Casipe, board member. The group, composed of disabled stroke patients and based at the Philippine Heart Center, aims to providing adequate support for their fellow patients to make them realize that they are not utterly helpless and that they can reintegrate themselves into mainstream society.

Special PROJECT

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Here's something that's sure to put you at the front of the queue: just when you thought even a bus ticket was becoming too heavy on your pocket... count on Talk 'N Text to save the day with another fantastic deal! With Talk 'N Text, the cellular service that gives value-for-money, you can become an easy rider with big discounts on board Philtranco, the country's largest bus operator. You might think we're taking you for a ride, but this is for real! Here's the deal: from September 22 to November 30, 2002, simply present your Philtranco Privilege Plus Card at the ticketing office along with your Talk 'N Text/Smart SIM and used prepaid card (P300,P500, P1000 and PureTxt 100) and steer your way to huge 25% savings! It's really as simple as that! So take advantage of this amazing offer now or you'll miss the bus... Yan ang galing without overspending!

TALK 'N TEXT

PHILTRANCO

BUSINESS

Gov't swamped with debt proposals

By Clarissa S. Batino

SWAMPED with offers to tap foreign markets for long-term money during the just-concluded roadshow conducted by Philippine economic managers, the government could have raised a fourth to half of its remaining $2 billion requirements for 2003.

"But the sentiment of (Finance) Secretary (Jose Isidro) Camacho and I would be to evaluate the offers once we go back. There is no great rush. The government does not need the money at this point," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in a teleconference with reporters.

He said foreign investors were eager to buy Philippine debt papers maturing in 10 or even 15 years. Buenaventura said that even the central bank received offers to tap the five-year market for fresh funds.

The BSP chief, Camacho and Investor . Relations Office (IRO)director Cora Guidote are in New York for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The team has just completed a roadshow in Singapore, London, Washington and New York while National Treasurer Sergio Edeza and BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. also finished a series of investors' briefings in Hong Kong, London, Amsterdam, and Milan.

Buenaventura said that even before the two teams left, investment banks have been urging Philippine officials to tap the foreign markets once they get there.

The government has to raise at least $2.3 billion in foreign funds next year to finance an estimated P142-billion deficit. It said the $300 million, five-year funds raised in early September would already be used in 2003, reducing the remaining external debt for next year to $2 billion.

"They were asking us if we want 10- or even 15-year money where spreads were quite reasonable specially after the drop in 10-year rates. We have a window in the 10-year and three-month maturity. There is quite a number of offers during the roadshow and even before we left Manila," Buenaventura said.

The government has $1.2-billion in securities registered with the US Securities and Exchange Commission that it could tap anytime.

The BSP chief stressed that the foreign investors willing to buy Philippine funds were those "quite choosy as to who they will lend to." He noted that Thailand's $1-billion borrowing is also being received well by foreign groups.

The government said it would tap next year or even late this year the Japanese, European, and US financial markets to raise at least $2 billion of its remaining requirements for 2003.

This year, the government said it needed only $1.3 billion, but it grew to $1.5 billion and eventually ended up at $2 billion in foreign borrowings. Even the borrowings from the local market were higher than what the domestic players expected.

The increased borrowing for 2002 was caused by the huge fiscal slippage against an original deficit target of P130 billion. This number was exceeded as early as July when the gap already grew to P133 billion and then to P144.033 billion in August.

GSIS earns P20B in 8 months

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) earned P20 billion in net operating revenues for the first eight months of the year, reaffirming its status as one of the most financially stable government corporations in the country.

The GSIS registered a 10.54-percent growth in investment earnings at P9.708 billion as of Aug. 31 from P8.78 billion during the same period last year.

The pension fund's revenue levels have been on the rise despite hefty increases in disbursements fro members' benefits.

From January to June this year, the GSIS had already disbursed P18.099 billion to 368,221 salary loan borrowers; and P4.242 billion to 398,901 policy loan borrowers. It has also released P10.97 billion for retirement and other social security claims for the same period.

The GSIS said it has vastly increased and improved virtually all the benefits granted to its members. It said it has expanded the loan ceiling of virtually all loan windows: salary loan from three to eight months; pension loan by 400 percent (up to six times the retiree's monthly pension but not more than P100,000); housing loan to an unlimited amount depending on a borrower's capacity to pay, and calamity loan by 25 percent (from P8,000 to P10,000). Last year, it disbursed P17.995 billion in various social insurance claims and benefits, which was P3.663 billion or 20 percent higher than that of the year 2000.

The GSIS said it was in the process of further improving its benefits by coming out with more pro-member programs, one of which involved the implementation of a retirement scheme that would give the retiree a pension equivalent to 90 percent of his average monthly compensation (AMC) for his last three years of service instead of limiting it to P14,000 under the present retirement law.

The GSIS said that it was on-stream in realizing its objective to gain a P30-billion net income at the end of the year. "Last year, we made P25.8 billion so a 20-percent increase in net revenue this year is very much achievable," it said.

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SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 28, 2002 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY*Special*

Editor **Nestor U. Torre** ● *Associate Editor* **Edmund L. Sicam**

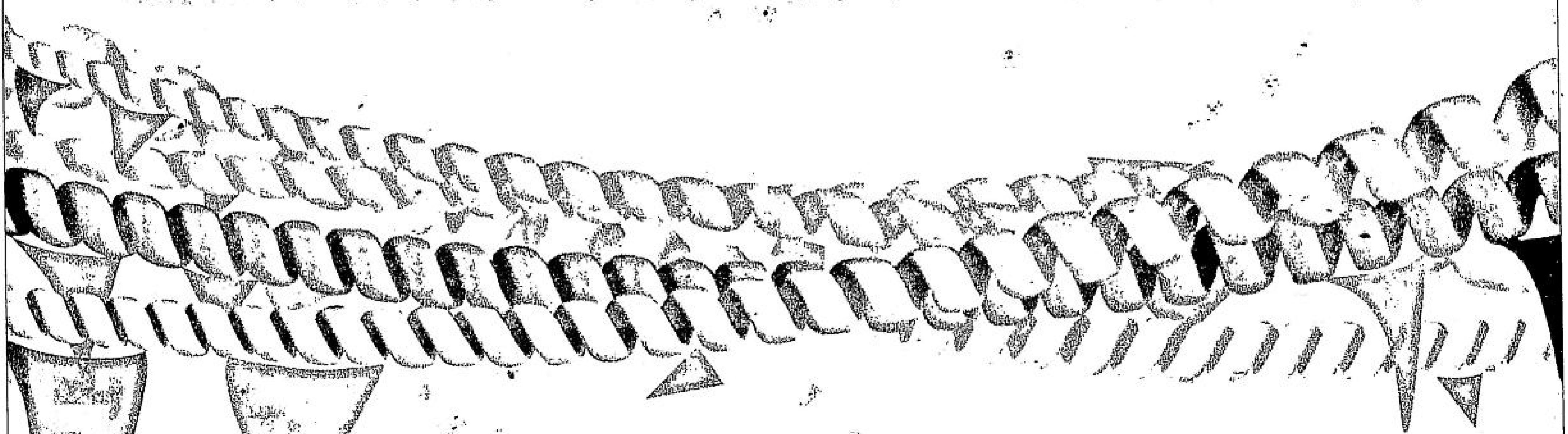
SPIELBERG. Eight-part miniseries.

Spielberg bringing Camelot to HBO

LOS ANGELES—Oscar-winning filmmaker Steven Spielberg plans to bring the legend of Camelot back to cable television.

Spielberg will executive produce a big-budget miniseries about King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table being developed by DreamWorks Television for HBO, officials for the studio and pay-cable network said recently.

SPIELBERG/ C2



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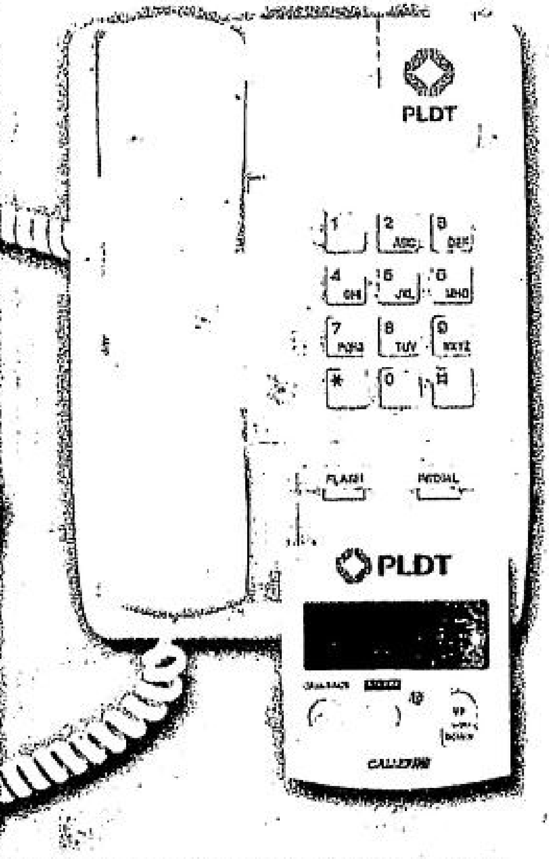

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6. Promo coverage is nationwide.
7. Promo period is from September 10 to December 10, 2002

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3. For existing PLDT subscribers who want a 2nd PLDT phone line, simply present his/her latest two (2) months PLDT billing statement worth at least an average of P1,000.00 for a post-paid landline.
4. For Telesulit pre-paid landline requests, simply submit billing statements worth an average of at most P500.00
5. Fill out the PLDT application forms and the conforme letter.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0981, Series of 2002

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'Digital LG Quiz' gears up for grand finals in new venue

ON Sept. 30, GMA-7's popular "Digital LG Quiz" show will be taping its grand finals for 2002 at its new venue, the Sylvia P. Lina Theater at the Angelo King Center for Performing Arts (De la Salle Santiago Zobel School in Muntinlupa City).

The P150-M performance venue is equipped with state-of-the-art light and sound equipment imported from Germany. It has a seating capacity of 1,052.

STUDENT contestants and quizmasters Paolo Bediones and Regine Tolentino on the set of "Digital LG Quiz."

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Recently, CPA was designated as the "Cultural Center of South Metro," making it possible for CCP patrons from South Metro Manila, Laguna, Cavite and Batangas to watch cultural performances. To date, CPA has featured shows presented by artistic groups like Ballet Philippines, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra and the Madrigal Singers.

"Digital LG Quiz" director Pat Perez says she likes the show's new venue because it provides ample room for her TV cameras.

And executive producer Jocelyn Bautista observes that the theater effectively accommodates the quiz show's technical requirements.

The show's quizmasters are Paolo Bediones and Regine Tolentino. The grand finals will be telecast early next month. "Digital LG Quiz" airs every Sunday at 10 a.m. on GMA-7, and is produced by the Alta Productions Group.

San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra in concert

The San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts is presenting the invitational concert, "Suites de Ballets et Scenes de Films" at the CCP tonight.

Ryan Caybayab, the foundation's executive and artistic director, describes the event as an evening of great compositions that have traversed the boundaries of different art forms. Principal conductor Julian Quirit and the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra perform some masterworks that have been featured in dance, theater and cinema productions:

The zarzuela "La Boda de Luis Alonso" by Jeronimo Gimenez y Bellido has been filmed for television in Spain. Igor Stravinsky's "Firebird Suite," commissioned by Diaghilev's Ballet Russe, has been performed on the concert stage as well.

Originally conceived for the stage, Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" has found its way into the dance repertory. The imposing chorus "O Fortuna" can be heard on films and even commercials.

'Tropical Avalanche'

Mitch Valdes and the Spirit of '67 band will entertain guests at the dinner-dance fundraiser, "Tropical Avalanche," of Touch Community Services, in cooperation with Sta. Fe Moving and Relocation, and Sky Cable, on Oct. 4 at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio.

The dinner will be catered by Via Mare, and there will also be door prizes and a silent auction. Proceeds will support the projects of Touch Community Services, including Telephone Crisis Line, Face to Face Counseling, Art Therapy, Well-Being courses, and seminars. Call 893-7606.

Calesa Bar homecoming for Anna Fegi

Zaftig singer Anna Fegi returns to her roots on Oct. 4, by way of a special show at the Hyatt Regency Manila's famous Calesa Music Bar and Lounge, where she honed her musical skills with its resident pianist, Rudy Francisco.

Anna's performance is the third in a series of monthly musical showcases of singers who launched their careers at Calesa. The series is a tribute to Rudy, who is celebrating his 35th year with the Hyatt next March.

Other special performers include Janet Basco on Oct. 11, Dulce on Nov. 13, Marissa Sanchez on Nov. 28, Malu Barry on Dec. 5, and Isay Alvarez on Dec. 20

Cherie Gil plays a 'contravida' once again

By Jocelyn Valle

GIL. Show biz is where she belongs.

NO, clarifies actress Cherie Gil, she and her husband of 14 years, musician Roni Rogoff, have not separated. "But geographically, yes," she nods. "We're in a very difficult situation now."

Younger kids

Cherie relates that her younger kids Bianca, 7, and Rafael, 5, are staying with Roni in Venice, Italy. "I call them everyday," she shares. "And every time I put down the phone, I cry—until the next day."

Meanwhile her eldest, Jamie, is in the country with her. He studies at Brent School in Subic, though, so the 15-year-old stays in a dorm.

"He wants to be a computer engineer," the proud mom beams. "I've been telling him to concentrate on computer graphics, *baka* he'll be like Steven Spielberg someday. *Sama ako sa movies n'ya.*"

Ah, the movies. They're a big part of Cherie's life. "I was born to be an actress," she smiles. That's why, despite missing her family in Italy, she's decided to ink a six-month contract with ABS-CBN to do "Bituin" (the network's newest telenovela that premiered last Sept. 23).

"I tried to do other things, like telemarketing, front-desk work. I learned Italian. But this is where I belong," says the daughter of actors Eddie Mesa and Rosemarie Gil, whose involvement in show business dates back to her childhood.

Movie fan

She's also a movie fan, she giggles. In fact, she reveals that she's kept a photo of hers with Sharon Cuneta, and another one with Vilma Santos. She's asked for a copy of one of the publicity photos for "Bituin," featuring her and the soap's main star, Nora Aunor.

In her many years in the biz, Cherie hasn't worked with the Superstar.

Starring opposite Nora was therefore the biggest attraction for Cherie to accept the new soap. Initially, she says, she was reluctant to do a *contravida* role again. She was enjoying her stint in another soap, "Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka," playing what she calls a fun character named Star, who has endeared her to a lot of young fans.

Old turf

Now she's back to her old turf. (The first time she played *contravida* was in 1984's "Sa Hirap at Ginhawa," with Sharon and Gabby Concepcion.) Thankfully, Cherie can't recall any bad experience with a fan, specially a Sharonian, even during the time of "Bituing Walang Ningning." "*Takot siguro sila sa akin*," she laughs.

But she has to be warned that soap opera fanatics are different. Actresses who play villains reportedly get unwanted attention when they go to the mall—old ladies attack them with their umbrellas. People ask them why they're so mean.

In "Bituin," Cherie plays Carmela, the younger sister of Nora's character, Laura, who was adopted by Carmela's parents. Despite all the love Laura has shown Carmela, the latter remains jealous of the former. She's is also the cause of Laura's biggest misery.

Cherie admits there are only black and white characters in the soap opera genre, but she promises viewers that she'll give her character more depth. Soap operas certainly need more of that!

Spielberg bringing Camelot to HBO

From page C1

Eight-part miniseries

The eight-part miniseries will combine the fable of Camelot, the seat of King Arthur's court, with documented accounts of historical figures on whom the mythic British monarch and his knights are believed to have been based.

Spielberg is developing the project, titled "Arthur," with Tony To, who served as a co-executive producer for the successful World War Two miniseries the director created with Tom Hanks, "Band of Brothers," a DreamWorks spokesman said.

Writer-director David Leland, who directed an episode of "Band of Brothers," is in talks to serve as writer and director on the King Arthur project.

Arthurian legend has figured in numerous Hollywood productions over the years, notably the 1967 big-screen version of the Lerner and Loewe musical "Camelot," which HBO adapted for the small screen in 1982 with Richard Harris reprising his role as King Arthur.

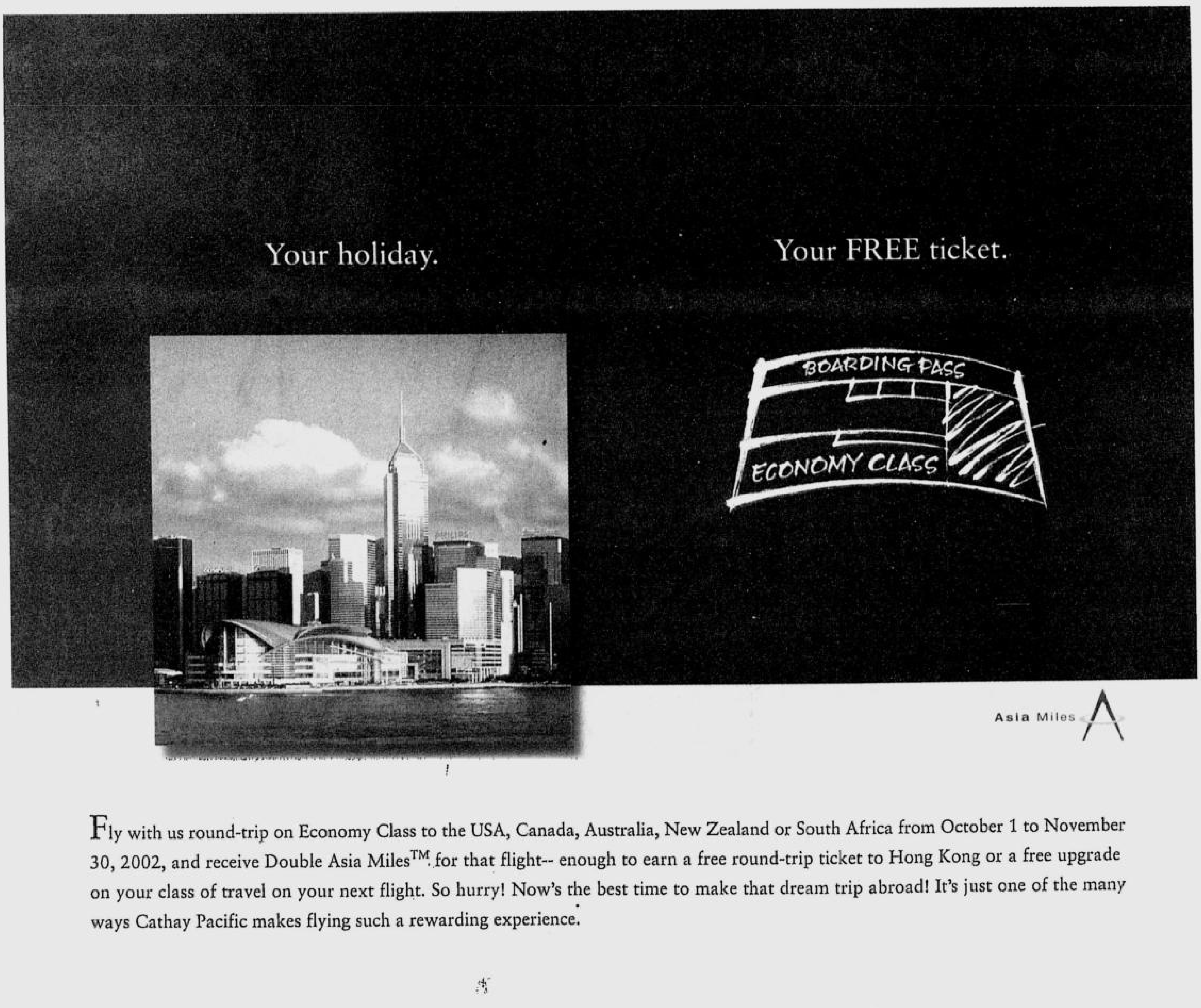
Arthurian legend

Spielberg also borrowed from Arthurian legend for his 1989 film "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," in which Harrison Ford and Sean Connery teamed up to seek the Holy Grail.

DreamWorks and HBO officials said filming of "Arthur" will likely begin early next year.

The budget is expected to run in the neighborhood of the $10 million or more per episode spent for such HBO miniseries as "Band of Brothers" and its upcoming epic "Alexander the Great," a source close to the project said.

HBO is an affiliate of AOL Time Warner Inc. while DreamWorks SKG is privately held. Reuters



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Jolina Magdangal grows up in new album

By Edmund L. Sicam

MAGDANGAL. Two new songs by David Pomeranz.

JOLINA Magdangal has a new album, and it's officially her last with Star Records. Is this album featuring a new Jolina? "Actually, *hindi naman* 'new'. . . *sa bawat* album *naman, gusto ko merong bago. Siguro magugulat lang sila dito dahil iba sa mga* pictorial *na pinagagawa ko.* Something formal, something ladylike . . . backless . . . *pero natakpan ng buhok. Nahiya pa rin ako! Para may iba pang maipakita* next time...," Jolina laughs.

"*Kasi, tutal, yung mga kanta sa* album, *hindi na puro pa*-cute *na* love. *Pero hindi naman sawi masyado. Kung baga, lahat ng mga taong bibili ng* album *ko, makikita nila na dito, parang nagdalaga na ako, ganoon.*"

Master composers

It's called "Songs from the Masters" because, according to the singer, "The album is full of songs from master composers, *talagang beterano na sa pag*-compose, like Danny Tan, Willy Cruz, George Canseco, Ryan Cayabyab, Freddie Aguilar, Jomari Chan, Trina Belamide, and *nag*-compose *ng dalawang kanta si* David Pomeranz. Original *at bago, hindi* revival. *Si* Ryan Cayabyab *at* George Canseco, *nagpa*-revive *lang po sila.* Love songs *lahat . . . walang* upbeat. *Yung masarap pakinggan habang umuulan, ganun . . . Kasi yun din yung gusto ko, mahilig din ako sa mga* love songs."

How does she feel about this being her farewell album for Star Records? "Happy *ako, kasi napaka*-supportive *nila* in every way, *hindi nila pinabayaan. Sabi nga nila,* let's end with a big bang. *Pero, nalulungkot din ako, kasi siyempre mami*-miss *ko sila.*"

How did it feel when she found out she would not be allowed to promote the album on ABS-CBN? "In a way, *ine*-expect *ko yun. Kasi, ang sabi sa akin nun, magpro*-promote *ako dun sa* 'ASAP,' *tapos nagulat na lang ako na hindi* . . . so *napangiti na lang ako.*"

"*At natuwa ako sa* GMA-7, *kasi* first time *nilang tumanggap ng may maglo*-launch *ng* Star album. *Sa* Star Records, okay *na rin,* at least, *nai*-launch *yung* album."

Contract

So, for whom will she make her next album? "*Sa ngayon, wala pa pong* decision *kung saan yung* next. *Bahala na, basta,* freelancer *ako ngayon.*" How does it feel to be a freelancer? "I got busy again. *Yung iba na hindi ako makuha dati, natutuwa sila.*"

She is doing quite a lot now, like shooting a movie with "Mang Dolphy," as she calls the king comic, and the TV show "The Working President" for the government.

She's also doing a soap for GMA, "Kahit Kailan," which, according to her, lightened up when she joined it. "*Siguro dahil yun yung gusto ng tao sa akin* (light comedy, not pure drama). *Pero hindi ko sinasabi na* forever *ganun . . . may drama ding nai*-inject . . . *pero ayoko ng* super-serious *lahat.* Feeling *ko tuloy, baka tumanda ako bigla...*"

So, what's it like, working with "Mang Dolphy"? She hasn't shot any scenes with him yet, but anticipating it is . . . exciting rather than scary, she says. "*Gusto kong kunin yung* positive side *na nae*-excite *ako at nacha*-challenge. *Siyempre si* Mang Dolphy *yan.* I'm challenged *kasi sinabi ni* Mang Dolphy *dati sa* special *niya na ako ang babaeng* Dolphy. So, *dapat pareho kaming magpatawa!*"

Watercolor your world with Nards Miranda

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

EVEN as a tyke, Nards Miranda was very handy at drawing with his pencils. After doing commercial art for some companies, he decided to devote all of his time to his artistic muse. He was 40 years old, a late bloomer, and more than ready.

Favorite medium

Sooner than he thought, Nards got some big clients. Foreigners liked his paintings of Puerto Galera, the majority of which are in his favorite medium, watercolor. Nards has a deft, amazing touch with watercolor, one of the most difficult of all painting mediums.

Nards is a prolific painter who has exhibited his works with the best of them—Jose Joya. H.R. Ocampo, Ang Kiukok, Cesar Legaspi, etc. Nards, a self-taught artist, was a regular artist-exhibitor at Hyatt Regency, Genesis, Andrea and eventually, in New Hampshire and at the Fine Arts Gallery in San Francisco, California in the USA.

Painters

His popularity has grown with the times, together with his group, Grupong Tubig Kulay, all watercolor artists. Among the painters who have influenced his art are Vincent Van Gogh, Winslow Homer, Sargent and John Pikes.

He and his wife Candida live in San Pablo, California. His son Rene works as a computer accountant. Nards still exhibits, most recently at the Louvre Gallery. Every Tuesday, Grupong Tubig Kulay has sessions at Intramuros.

Call OMNI Artists at 231-8548 or 521-7866.

Email the author at mn_photocom@i-manila.com

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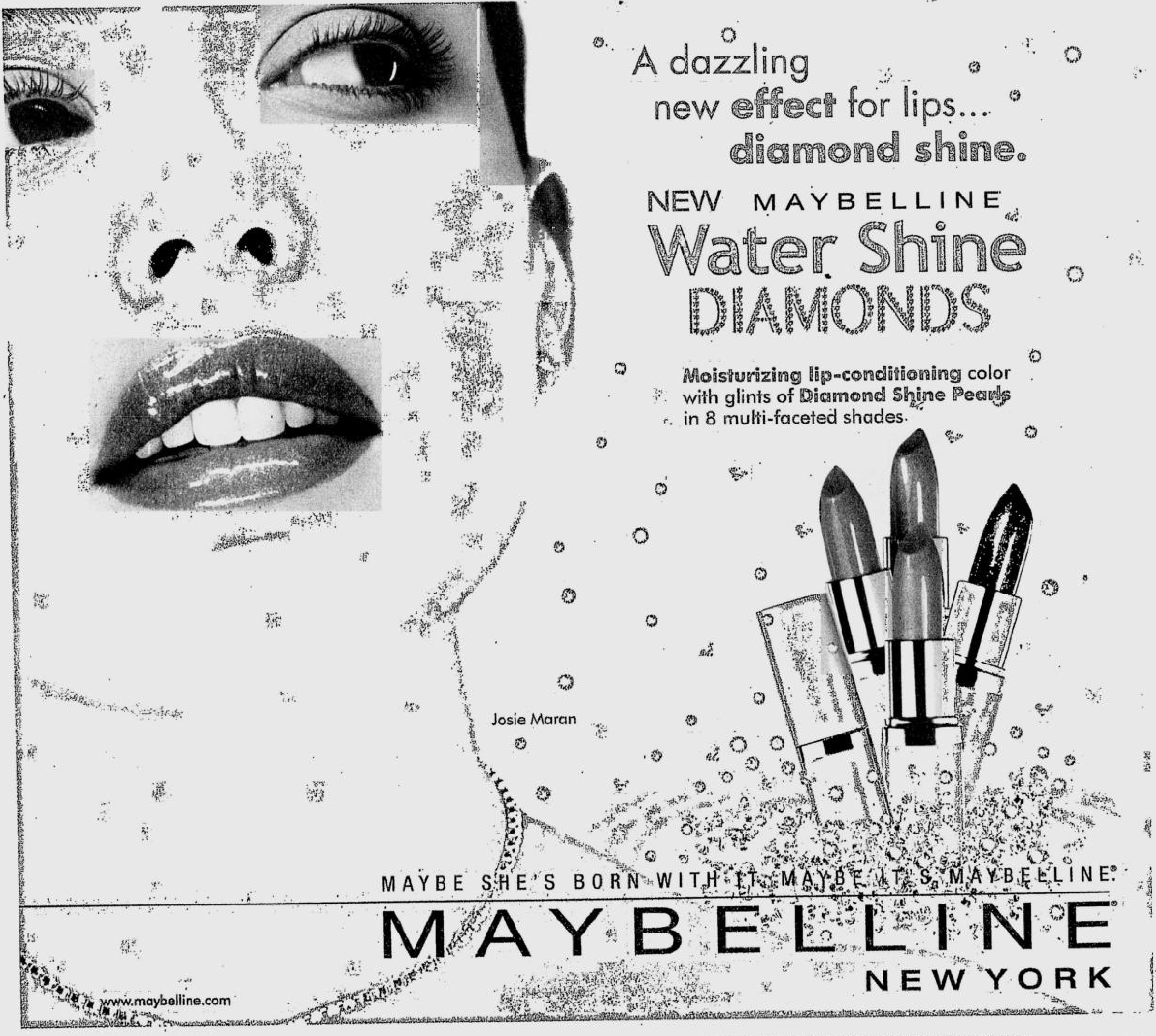

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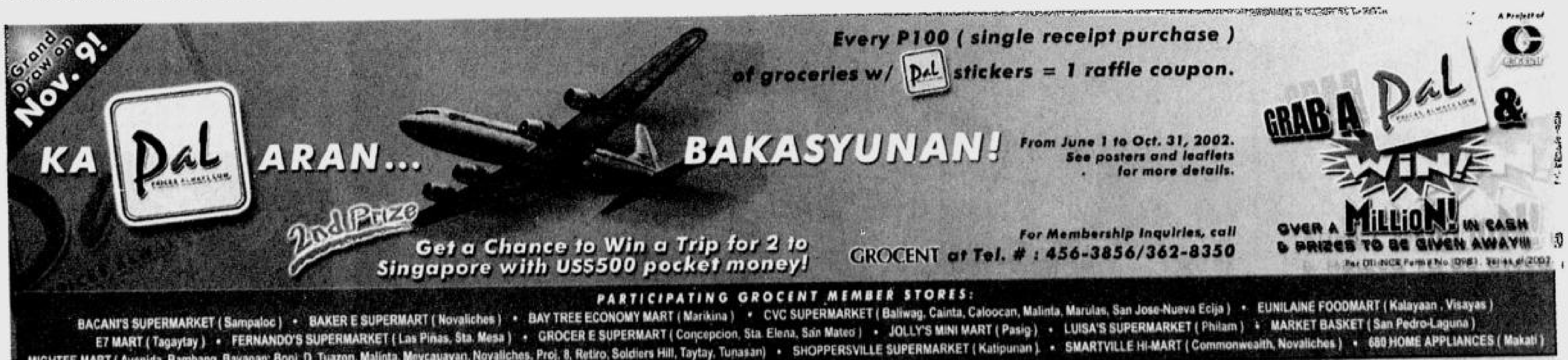

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Radio Mindanao Network celebrates 50th anniversary

By Nestor U. Torre

We join media people and radio-TV buffs in congratulating Radio Mindanao Network on its 50th anniversary this year. The network began as a solitary radio station, dxCC, in Cagayan de Oro City, the visionary enterprise of businessman and civic leader Henry Canoy.

Rough sailing

It was rough sailing for the first few years, but the station became popular soon enough because it met a felt need, and RMN later opened stations all over the country, becoming more progressive and successful than its founder had ever imagined.

We were there some years later, as a teen staffer of dxCC, and we still remember the valuable lessons we learned from Henry and his younger brother Reuben, whose hands-on managerial style ensured that their announcers' performance reflected their own high standards of broadcasting and public service.

They were good motivators whose personal touch encouraged tyros like us to keep developing their abilities. In our case, we soon found ourselves doing the morning newscast, an afternoon request program, another musical show broadcast remote from a nightclub, a noontime variety show, a weekend quiz program, for children, *and* any number of remote coverages—and we were only 15 years old!

Example

It was a tough schedule to comply with, on top of our other obligations, like school and stuff, but the Canoy brothers helped us do it with their example and personal guidance.

Henry also proved instrumental in our getting to do our masteral studies on a scholarship in the States. He got the local Rotary Club to make us its candidate in the nationwide competition for the Rotary International Fellowship for Friendship and International Understanding, which we fortunately won.

TV show

And, when we got back to the Philippines after our one year at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, Henry got us to direct a number of TV shows at Channel 13, thus helping us get our media career in Manila started.

So, we owe the Canoy brothers a lot, as do many of today's leading radio-TV lights, who also got their start at RMN. We trust that they are continuing to practice what Henry preached to us, that radio was a very important medium especially in small communities and places that couldn't be reached by other media, and therefore must be used with a strong sense of responsibility and public service.

It should also have a dynamic local focus, articulating the aspirations of the community it serves, exposing anomalies, and inviting the listening public to be a part of their solution.

But by no means should local radio be uninterested in the world at large, so news programs should balance coverage of local news with national and international reports.

Varied

As for the local station's entertainment programs, they should be varied in format, scope and style, so there is something for everybody.

And, in terms of treatment, the broadcaster must never forget that he and his program are invited guests in people's homes, so they have to comport themselves responsibly, and not resort to exploitative presentation, which many parents regard as an unwelcome intrusion into their families' private space, not to mention an assault on the values they hold dear.

It's been 50 years since RMN and its founders set those standards. We hope that they will continue to be upheld in the years and decades to come.

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'DISYEMBRE'

Documentary filmmaking as a lesson in survival

By Neil Daza

FROM late 1998 to the last quarter of 1999, I and three other filmmakers, Avic Ilagan, Chuck Escasa and Dennis Empalmado, documented the lives of two Filipinas and Japanese-Filipino children, on a Japan Foundation Film Production Grant.

Parallel lives

It was a story of two parallel lives from two cities: Donna and her son Shohei in Yokohama, Japan struggle to survive after Donna's two failed marriages and unexpected tragedy in her family.

On the other hand, Nancy and her son Fumio in Manila continue to search for Fumio's father as Nancy battles a life-threatening illness.

I knew from the start that I was going to do a film without a script. It was a given that in shooting documentaries like this one, "real" people with "real" lives and situations were involved.

Quick adjustments

They could be directed on what to say and how to say it in front of the camera. I could not foresee what was going to happen. Each day brought new, exciting developments. I had to make quick adjustments.

In the case of Nancy, the mother of Fumio, she was told by her doctors that her death was coming. I filmed her knowing that any day could be her last. I did not have a script for that.

And when death came for her, I did not have a script for that, either. I shot purely on nerves and instinct.

The story of Nancy did not end with her demise. It now lives in Fumio.

Quarrels

I realized that you cannot document a life without getting involved in it. In Japan, I lived for a time with Donna, the mother of Shohei.

I slept at her place, I ate with her and Shohei, I rode with them to Shohei's school and to other places. I witnessed their quarrels without understanding a word. I celebrated Shohei's birthday.

I saw their difficulties and, though we never shared that experience, carrying that knowledge was emotionally distressing.

Personal difficulties

I had to face my personal difficulties as well. The paralyzing winter cold was one of them. The cryptic process of catching trains was another. And of course the language barrier.

As a sort of consolation or maybe inspiration, I tried imagining what Donna must have gone through when she first arrived in Japan. She hurdled all that, and much more.

While finishing this film, I put fragments of lives together. I discovered not only the toughness of the human spirit but also my unrealized strength. I learned about people and importantly, myself.

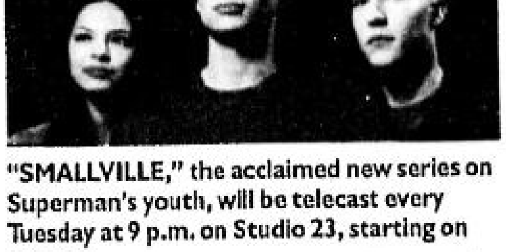
True story

I saw the need to tell a true story—a story about four souls, connected by loss, pain and the irrepressible search for home.

Filmmaking? No, this is an expedition into the human heart.

"Disyembre" premieres on Sept. 29, Sunday, 7 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Little Theater. Admission is free.

(Neil Daza is an award-winning cinematographer and documentary filmmaker. "Disyembre" is his first full-length documentary.)



"SMALLVILLE," the acclaimed new series on Superman's youth, will be telecast every Tuesday at 9 p.m. on Studio 23, starting on Oct. 8.

Ogie Alcasid performs at the Big Dome Oct. 4

ALCASID. Family first.

By Edmund L. Sicam

OGIE Alcasid is about to embark on a daunting task—he's got a concert scheduled at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 4. How does Ogie feel? "I think at this point, I'm trying to pace my anxiety. Instead of being stressed by it, I take it as a rush."

Reaction

When the idea of doing a concert at Araneta was brought up, his reaction was:"WHAT? Are you serious?"

"First of all, I would've wanted it to be next year because it's my 15th year. *Kaya lang*, Viva was quite upbeat about it. When I asked them why, they showed me the report on the sales of my current album, which never dipped. So I said, okay, let's go. So here we are."

Is his being a television personality going to help him with this concert? "Yes, it helps that you are popular as a TV host, but I think what really helps is that my music has been getting a lot of airplay... my songs have been sung by a lot of people."

Sense of humor

But doesn't it get confusing for him? When he sings songs, he's a balladeer and he sings romantic songs. But when he's on TV, he does comedy. "Actually, it's not a conscious effort on my part. It just so happens that I'm really a singer and that I'm a kinda crazy person. By nature, a lot of artists are like that, they have a sense of humor.

"It was a struggle for me before, especially when I was making movies, *tapos nakikilala na ako sa* comedy—*sabi ko*, my gosh, *ano na ba ako?* I was struggling with it for a couple of years. But when I made the conscious effort to establish myself as songwriter and singer, it worked. Because you see different facets of me, it doesn't get monotonous. In a way, it's also complementary."

What are the physical demands on a singer during a concert? "You've got to have strong resistance . . . lung power . . . and since I'm going to be dancing (I'm not young anymore, you know), there's a bit of a struggle there. But I'll try to do it."

New dad

Ogie has recently just become a father for the second time. How does it feel?

"You just don't know what to expect. You've been through the whole bit, *pero, iba rin pala, kasi* you're a dad all over again. *Papatulog ka na naman, papadede ka na naman...*" His first daughter is five years old. *"Di na* baby *yun. Iba na yung* level of relationship *mo dun* as ā parent. This one is a little person again. It's so exciting. I think that one month I spent in Australia being with my family was really helpful because it relaxed me. I was just a dad."

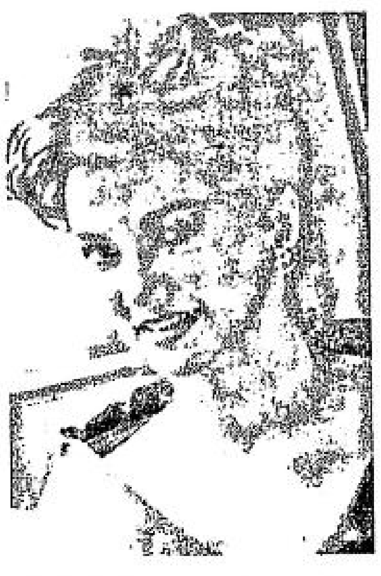
This is their second girl. Will they try again for a boy? "I don't want to ask my wife yet," Ogie laughs. Then seriously, "Because she went through a lot for this one! We'll take a break first. In fact, when we were planning that second baby, we really discussed it. She was already losing weight, she was doing a lot of things. *Sabi ko*, are you sure? You're going to get tied down again. *Sabi niya*, yes. So we had the baby."

Does Michelle want to go back to show biz? Ogie shares that Michelle didn't really enjoy it. "In truth, it's not really a very enjoyable business, because it's so unreal. The good side about it is that it's nice to be famous. It looks easy, but actually, it's hard. You don't have time for yourself, you can't really go anywhere..." He declares that *he'd* choose his family over his career—in a heartbeat. "My family needs me more than I need my career!"

'THE POWER OF YOUR LOVE'

Musical affirmation of God's healing grace

By Noelani Torre


YOUNG. Conceptualized and produced the album.

FR. James B. Reuter, SJ quotes Jose Rizal in the introductory first track of "The Power of Your Love": "My people have always been poor. For centuries our only possessions have been the land, the sea, the sun, the rain. But having nothing we discovered that our real treasure was each other." And that, says Fr. Reuter, "is what this album is all about, the family . . . selfless love."

Songs and prayers

"The Power of Your Love (Only Selfless Love: Music and Prayers to Commemorate the 4th World Meeting of Families)" is a collection of songs and prayers centering on the theme of the family and family love.

Released by Universal Records, it was produced to celebrate the 4th World Meeting of Families that will be held in Manila from Jan. 22 to 26, 2003.

The Pope's theme for next year's World Meeting is "The Christian Family: Good News for the Third Millennium." This expresses his belief that "the future of humanity passes by way of the family." Thus, he challenges: "Family, become what you are."

Pope's challenge

This album reflects that theme and echoes the Pope's challenge. Thus, we hear a lot of the usual praise music here, but there are also several songs that aren't necessarily religious from beginning to end, such as the sentimental "Butterfly Kisses" and the old favorite, "Umagang Kay Ganda."

Jeanne Young, who conceptualized and produced the album, also lends her voice to quite a few songs. Her two solos, "Surrender" and the classic "I Will Be Here" are both competently executed.

Other participating singers include Carol Banawa, Jolina Magdangal, Mikee Cojuangco Jaworski, Nonoy Zuñiga, Pinky Marquez, Arnee Hidalgo, D&A, and Isay Alvarez and her daughter, Didang.

The album is smoothly put together and offers easy listening from the first to the last track. We have to say, though, that we aren't entirely comfortable with the idea of hearing recorded prayers. They sound a tad too schmaltzy, somehow.

The song "Only Selfless Love" sounds like it's the World Meeting's theme song, with a refrain that goes: "Only selfless love, Jesus, show the world/ That only selfless love can bring a hundredfold/ Of fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, homes . . . Where peace and mercy reign,/ Where faith and hope remain,/ Where life begins and ends in God's embrace. Calling all families!/ Let's make it happen.../ Through only selfless love."

New role

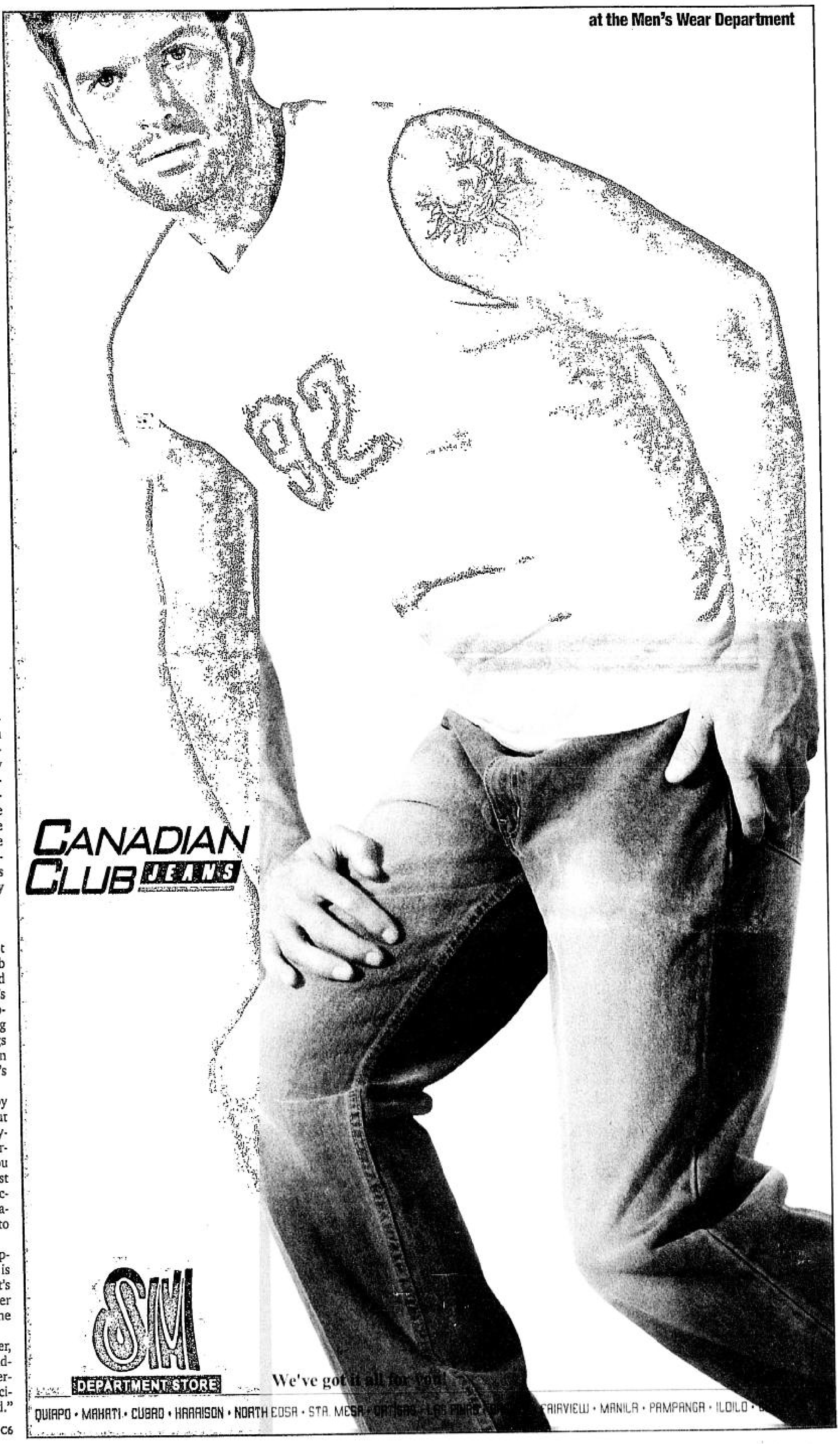
Jolina Magdangal, though not exactly known for being a superb singer, gives us an ably performed rendering of Florante De Leon's wistful "Sana." And Mikee Cojuangco Jaworski, emphasizing her new role as a mother, sings "Please Know My Child" and even incorporates her son Robbie's voice at the end of the song.

"Butterfly Kisses," sung by Nonoy Zuñiga, is sentimental, but manages not to become overly-syrupy. Pinky Marquez sings Barbra Streisand's "Papa, Can You Hear Me," and it's one of the best performances in this whole selection. It's one thing to hear a capable singer, and quite another to listen to real virtuoso singing.

D & A's rendering of Eric Clapton's classic "Tears in Heaven" is also a good performance. It's more pop-py than the other songs, but it doesn't disrupt the album's flow.

Isay Alvarez and her daughter, Didang, offer another outstanding performance with their interpretation of the Rico Yan-associated song, "Warrior Is A Child."

MUSICAL/ C6



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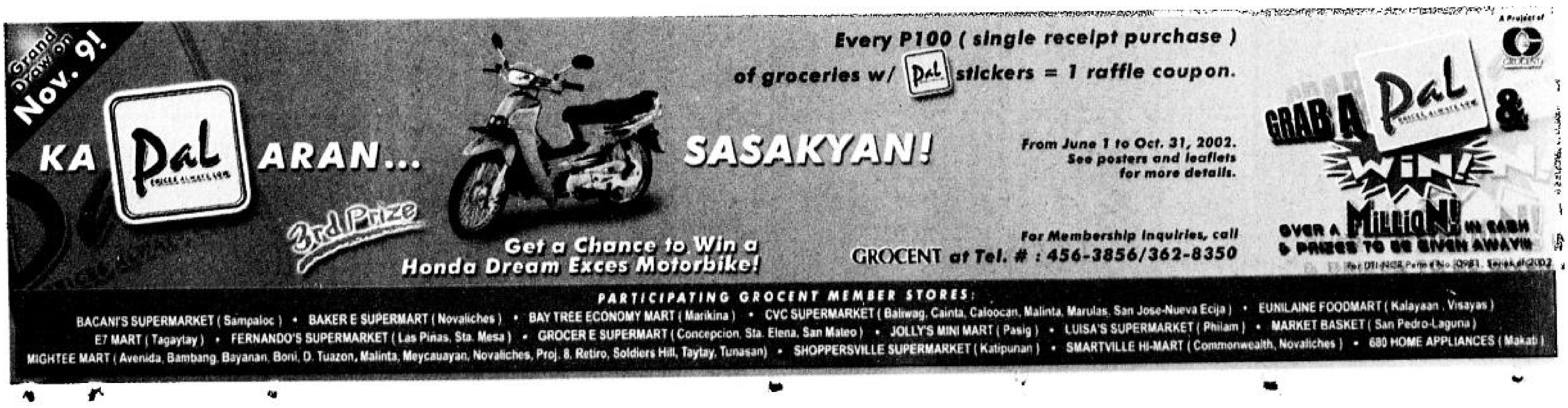

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'Barbershop' continues to trim competition at box office

By Paul Wilborn

LOS ANGELES—American audiences couldn't resist a visit to the "Barbershop," as last week's top film earned an estimated $13.3 million to clip four newcomers and stay No. 1 at the box office.

"Barbershop is definitely benefiting from the two things—good word of mouth and good reviews," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

Ensemble comedy

An ensemble comedy, "Barbershop" stars Ice Cube as the reluctant owner of his late father's haircutting business.

Of the new openings, "The Banger Sisters," about the reunion of two former rock groupies, starring Goldie Hawn and Susan Sarandon, finished in second place with an estimated $10.3 million.

Targeted at an audience of older women, the film "did very well with that group," said Steve Gilula, of Fox Searchlight Pictures, the distributor.

"Ballistic: Ecks vs. Sever," a spy thriller featuring Antonio Banderas and Lucy Liu, earned an estimated $7.11 million, to edge the Heath Ledger starrer, "The Four Feathers," which earned $7.10 million.

Kidnapping thriller

The only other new film in release, "Trapped," a kidnapping thriller starring Charlize Theron, Courtney Love and Kevin Bacon, finished in 10th place with an estimated $3.2 million.

"With so many movies opening, it really fragmented the audience. That's why we didn't see any of the newcomers come to the top of the pack," said Dergarabedian.

ICE Cube (as Calvin, right) cuts hair in the hit comedy, "Barbershop." AP

While the newcomers' struggled, it was another consistent week for "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," which finished in third place, earning an estimated $10 million in its 23rd week of release.

The romantic comedy, starring its screenwriter, Nia Vardalos, and actor John Corbett, has grossed $124 million overall and shows no sign of slowing down, said Rob Schwartz, head of distribution for IFC Films, which released "Greek Wedding."

"Signs," the alien-invasion film starring Mel Gibson, also continued to draw audiences, earning $3.5 million for an eight-week total of $218 million.

Slow month

While September is traditionally a slow month, this weekend's $70 million overall box office was up substantially from the same weekend last year when Mariah Carey's lackluster "Glitter" debuted and audiences stayed home to watch an all-star telethon for victims of the terrorist attacks.

Next weekend should be stronger, Dergarabedian said, with the openings of Jackie Chan's "Tuxedo," and the new Reese Witherspoon film, "Sweet Home Alabama."

Top 10 films

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.:

1. "Barbershop," $13.3 million.
2. "The Banger Sisters," $10.3 million.
3. "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," $10 million.
4. "Ballistic: Ecks vs. Sever," $7.11 million.
5. "The Four Feathers," $7.10 million.
6. "One Hour Photo," $4.7 million.
7. "Stealing Harvard," $3.5 million (tie).
7. "Signs," $3.5 million (tie).
9. "Swimfan," $3.45 million.
10. "Trapped," $3.2 million.

AP

Maricar de Mesa stars in 'Bedtime Stories'

By Edmund L. Sicam

AT first glance, "Bedtime Stories" seems like your typical movie vehicle for a new sexy star—in this case, Maricar de Mesa. It features three different stories with Maricar doing love scenes with different men. She gets to play four characters (in one episode, she plays twins).

What's different about the movie is that director Maryo de los Reyes has chosen to focus his attention on topics not usually depicted on the big screen.

Sexual aberrations

"Bedtime Stories" takes a look at sexual aberrations like sadomasochism and necrophilia. An episode on the effects of the drug Ectasy seems tame by comparison, but judging from Maricar's description of her sexual encounters with Wendell Ramos, it is just as controversial.

DE MESA. Plays four characters.

Maricar narrates, "The first episode deals with sadomasochism. Battered wife *ako ni* Anton Bernardo." We ask, "And you enjoy it?" "No. *Lalabas yung* sadomasochism *sa* ending. *Ako na yung gagawa sa kanya.*"

"*Yung* second story, necrophilia. *Kasi, kambal . . . yung isa, patay, yung isa buhay.* In the third, Wendell Ramos and I are both Ecstasy users. *Nagti*-trip *kami* one night, *tapos nagkaroon ng* crime, *naging* psycho *ako.*"

The third episode was the most strenuous for Maricar, who got sick twice during the shoot. She and Wendell were involved in violent scenes, and suffered bruises.

Not squeamish

How do you prepare for a movie like this? Maricar says she's not squeamish about being around dead bodies, and agreed to play dead in a coffin. Her only condition was that an assistant should hold her foot out of camera range, and she had to have a Walkman with her during the shoot. She says she has claustrophobia.

But she confesses, "*Alam mo,* the hardest thing *na pinagawa nila sa akin, yung pinahiga nila ako sa* embalming table. *Ang lamig-lamig ng* feeling *na nininerbyos ako na parang hinihila ang paa ko na hindi mo maintindihan. Nasa* morgue *kami* one whole night!"

Maricar also confesses it isn't easy to do a love scene. And she draws the line at men touching parts of her body. Her partner in a lesbian kissing scene, Ynez Veneracion, was the only one who got to touch her. "*Kasi, magkakilala na kami, kaya* comfortable *ako sa kanya*".

How did it feel, to do a love scene with a girl for the first time? "*Kinikilabutan ako.*" What was more '*nakakilabot*', the embalming table or kissing a girl? "*Iba yung* feeling. *Babae si* Ynez, *kakilala mo, tapos may* kissing scene *kayo. Pero* after *nun*, okay *na kami, tawa lang kami ng tawa. Pero iba pa rin yung* feeling!"

New singing style for Celine Dion

By Leia Torre

"A NEW Day Has Come" is Celine Dion's latest album, her first studio album in five years. This album comes after a hiatus of two years, which the singer went on in order to care for her husband, who was diagnosed with cancer. "A New Day Has Come" is also her first collection of new songs since "Let's Talk About Love" came out in 1997.

DION.

17 tracks

Released last March 25, it contains 17 tracks—"I'm Alive," "Right in Front of You," "Have You Ever Been in Love," "Rain, Tax (It's Inevitable)," "A New Day Has Come (Radio Remix)," "Ten Days," "Goodbye's (The Saddest Word)," "Prayer," "I Surrender," "At Last," "Super Love," "Sorry for Love," "Aun Existe Amor," "The Greatest Reward," "When the Wrong One Loves You Right," "A New Day Has Come," and "Nature Boy."

A number of these songs differ in style from Dion's trademark tunes. They are still love songs, but more upbeat. "I'm Alive" is a good example: you can can sing with and dance to it at the same time.

"Right in Front of You" starts out slowly, but speeds up as soon as it reaches the chorus. It has a very catchy melody, which merges nicely with its buoyant rhythm.

"A New Day Has Come" has been recorded in two versions. The radio remix version has had a lot of accompanying instruments added to it, particularly drums. The original version has a very simple accompaniment, making the singer's voice stand out.

Chorus

One song that has an interesting title is "Rain, Tax (It's Inevitable)." One wouldn't think that it is a song about love. Its lyrics are also unusual, especially those in the chorus. Its tempo and melody fit it perfectly.

"Goodbye's (The Saddest Word)" is also a love song, but not one dedicated to a romantic partner. This song is dedicated to mothers. It is also a pledge of love

NEW/ C7

Musical affirmation of God's healing grace

From page C5

Isay's strong voice is complemented by her daughter's clear notes, and it's quite refreshing to listen to.

Other religions

In an effort to acknowledge other religions, the album also includes two interfaith prayers for peace, a Muslim prayer by Prof. Taha M. Basman and one by the Yogita Sharma.

The last four tracks in "The Power Of Your Love" are all generally upbeat and optimistic songs of praise. Featuring various artists, including the Edsa Shrine Kids and the Youth of Edsa Shrine, they give the album a clearly positive ending.

So, if you want to get into the spirit of next year's World Meeting, this is certainly the CD to listen to. There's something here for anybody in search of inspiration, or an affirmation of God's grace.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM SEPT 28 - OCT 4

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	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Smart Ka Na Ba? 7:30 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Mary d' Potter 9:30 Klasmeyts 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 Various Sports Special 7:30 Road to Busan 8:00 Various Sports Special 9:00 Fox News 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	5:30 Dragon Ball Z 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster *Maginoong Barumbado* 11:00 Master Showman	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 *Freestyle All Hits Part 2*	7:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Kagat ng Dilim	5:30 Bewitched 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Extreme Close-Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Family Feud* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Celebrity Profile
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	7:30 Road to Busan 8:00 The Working President (Replay) 9:00 Fox News 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Director's Guild Awards*	8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva's Hot Hits	5:00 Travel Time 7:00 Exposed 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The Street 10:30 Twilight Zone	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 Live From the Red Carpet! *2002 Primetime Emmy Awards Pre-Show (replay)* 8:00 Live From the Red Carpet! *2002 Primetime Emmy Awards Post-Show (replay)* 10:00 Movies on E! *April Love*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Bituin 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Ingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	4:00 Fox News 7:30 Road To Busan 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Fashion TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Ibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 24 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:00 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Diwa 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 New York Special 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Bituin 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Ingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	6:00 Fox News 7:30 Road To Busan 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fora Medica 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:00 Ang Ibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainmnet Tonight	6:00 Challenge of the Masters! 9:00 Sine Shawie 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Angel 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
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New pop diva is born in Anna Fegi

By Danny M. Rayos del Sol

THE CONCERT of Anna Fegi with Hiraya last Sept. 13 and 14 at Philamlife theater dazzled the audience with its repertoire, which included pop, jazz and light classical music selections.

Full justice

Ms Fegi enthralled her audience from her opening number onward. And the lilting voices of the Hiraya did full justice to "For the First Time," and "For the Longest Time." Their performance was a delight.

The arrangement of "The Prayer" which Anna sang with Hiraya doing the Bocelli part was excellent and unique. But some of the musical arrangements of the group could have been more varied to avoid monotony.

In Anna's rendition of "Dust in the Wind" with the Legato String Quintet (composed of UST music students) the solo guitarist Naldy Rodriguez, also the concert's musical director, was excellent.

Singing career

I have followed the singing career of Anna Fegi. Before, the texture of her voice was more like Donna Summer's. But now, she has developed her own unique style and placement, and has become a more powerful singer. Our latest pop diva has arrived!

FEGI. Unique style and placement.

New singing . . .

From page C6

from a daughter to her mother, and is one of the most touching songs in the album.

"Prayer" begins with questions and ends with pleas for the benefit of the children of the world. The lyrics are eloquent, and are matched by the expressive melody. It is one of the few songs in this album in which the singer hits those high notes that she is famous for.

Jazzy

"At Last" is very jazzy, a rather nice change from the other songs. "Sorry for Love" has an upbeat rhythm, in contrast to its maudlin lyrics.

"Aun Existe Amor," the only song in the album that is not in English, is passionate and moving. "The Greatest Reward" most resembles the singer's earlier songs. It contains her trademark high notes, as well as a melody that is both dreamy and powerful. "When the Wrong One Loves You Right," is another ballad masquerading as an upbeat pop song.

Own twist

"Nature Boy" is the singer's version of the song made popular by "Moulin Rouge." Though Dion retains its slow rhythm, she adds her own twist to the way it is sung.

All in all, most of the songs in this album are a departure from the singer's usual style. Perhaps this is because the making of the album coincided with major changes in her life.

According to her album notes, this compilation was made when "a renewed sense of family and commitment" came upon everyone involved in its making. Whatever the reason, the results are gratifying. With this album, a new style for Celine Dion has been established.

Black . . .

From page C8

How are women reacting to a heroine whose turn-ons tend toward servility and subjugation?

Most women I've talked to have been really moved by it because I think it's about somebody who's brave enough to acknowledge what she wants . . . The feminist movement has done all these amazing things for me and my generation in terms of lessening the gap between men and women. But I also think it's getting a little constricting.

This movie shakes up some of those rules. It says the feminist movement has been so helpful, thank you very much, but you know what? Now we're going to make a movie about a woman who's freed and empowered and awakened by being submissive in an S&M relationship. What do you think about that?

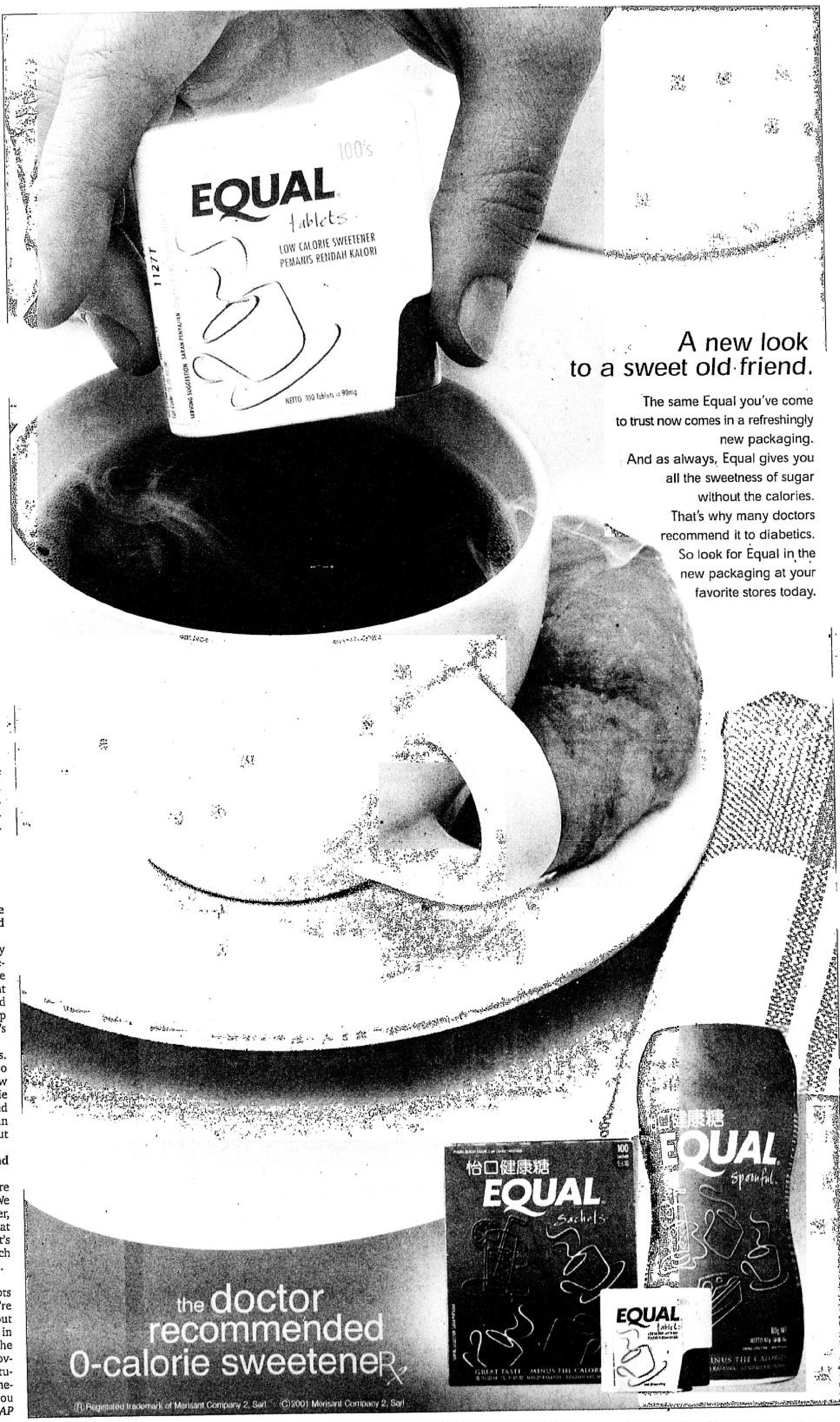
Any sibling rivalry between you and Jake?

We're definitely very competitive. We're brother and sister, so of course we are. We fight, too, but we also really love each other, and we're really close. It was hard for me at first that he was out there acting. I think it's much easier for both of us to deal with each other now that I'm having some success, too.

How do you choose your roles?

It has to be about humans. A lot of scripts pretend they're about humans, but they're about androids. I want my scripts to be about humans, and I want them to be provocative in some way, challenging something in the world. I want the world to be exposed as movable and changeable and malleable, as it actually is. I like scripts that kind of show something that's true and asks, now how do you feel?

AP



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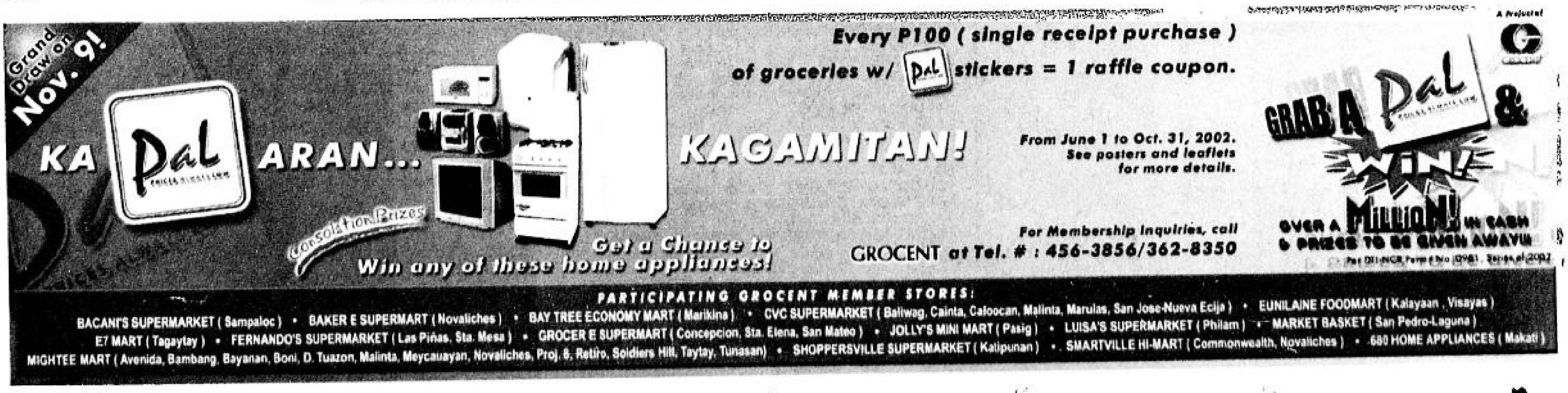

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Black comedy is Maggie Gyllenhaal's ticket to stardom

By David Germain

TORONTO—It takes all kinds to make a go at romance, and Maggie Gyllenhaal is out to prove it.

First lead role

For her first lead role, Gyllenhaal takes on the provocative black comedy "Secretary," playing a self-mutilating woman who finds the perfect match in her sadomasochistic new boss (James Spader).

Directed by Steven Shainberg, "Secretary" won a special prize for originality at last winter's Sundance Film Festival, where the 24-year-old Gyllenhaal was one of the most talked-about actresses.

Gyllenhaal hurls herself into a character who slashes her own flesh, presses a scalding kettle to her thigh, crawls down a hallway with paperwork in her mouth and submits to the occasional disciplinary spanking.

Women have responded positively to "Secretary," but "some men have been kind of embarrassed talking to me," Gyllenhaal said in a recent interview at the Toronto International Film Festival, where the film played. "I talked to one interviewer who said he was embarrassed that he was turned on by the movie."

Younger brother

GYLLENHAAL plays a self-mutilating woman who finds the perfect match in her sadomasochistic new boss (James Spader) in "Secretary." AP

With "Secretary," Gyllenhaal, 24, moves out of the shadow of her younger brother, Jake Gyllenhaal. He started acting in high school while Maggie went to college, and has amassed credits that include "October Sky," "The Good Girl" and the upcoming "Moonlight Mile."

After "Secretary," Maggie Gyllenhaal has co-starring turns in Nicolas Cage's "Adaptation," John Sayles' "Casa de Los Babys" and Julia Roberts' "Mona Lisa Smile." Her previous credits include supporting roles in "Cecil B. Demented," "40 Days and 40 Nights" and her brother's "Donnie Darko." Q & A:

"Secretary" opens with a single-take shot of you with arms outstretched and immobilized in a yoke as you scoop up papers and coffee, then meander down the hall to the boss' office. How tough was it to move so gracefully stuck in that contraption?

It was less hard than it looks. It came at the end of this 16-hour day where we just put me in the thing and practiced a little bit to figure out what I was going to do. We did it in about eight takes, which is pretty extraordinary considering all the things I had to do. It was just this blessed moment.

How did you research your role as a self-mutilating sadomasochism enthusiast?

Steve gave me all these books to read about S&M and people who cut themselves, which I diligently went through. What I realized about people who cut themselves is, it's one thing to say, 'Oh, they're these weird people doing this odd thing. It's got nothing to do with me.'

Cigarette

In actuality, I think everybody hurts himself, only in much more subtle ways. I can't imagine taking a hot kettle to my thigh. But I did smoke until six weeks ago, and I would know every time I put a cigarette to my lips, I was doing something terrible for me. I would cough, I would wake up with a sore throat, I would lose my voice. Yet I was attracted to it.

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BILANGGO	bilanggo	RIZAL UNDERGROUND
CHINA EYES	chinaeye	ALAMID
FOREVERMORE	foreverm	SIDE A
NANG MAGING CHAMPION ANG GINEBRA	ginebra	GARY GRANADA
HATAW NA	hatawna	GARY VALENCIANO
HOLD ON	holdon	SIDE A
LAKLAK	laklak	TEETH
NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	nowthati1	THE COMPANY
PRINCESA	princesa	TEETH
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SET YOU FREE	setufree	SIDE A
SO MANY QUESTIONS	somanyq	SIDE A
TABING ILOG	tabilog	BARBIE'S CRADLE
DI BALE NA LANG	dibale	GARY VALENCIANO
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TIL MY HEARTACHES END	tilmy	ELLA MAY SAISON
YOUR LOVE	yourlove	ALAMID
LOOK IN HER EYES	lukineye	GARY VALENCIANO
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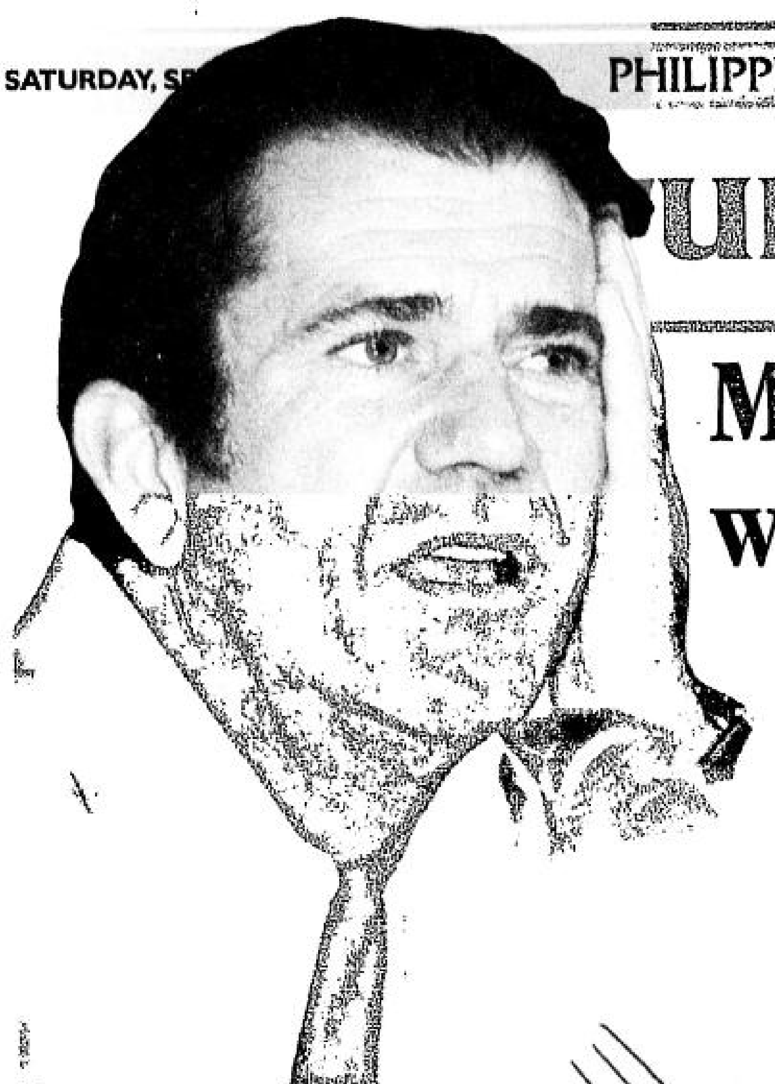
URDAY *Special*

Mel Gibson breaks new ground with film in Latin



GIBSON. "They think I'm insane. Maybe I am!"

ROME—A film in two ancient tongues with no subtitles?

The off-beat formula hardly sounds like the recipe for a hit movie but Mel Gibson thinks language should be no barrier.

"Passion"—a Gibson-directed flick about Christ's last 12 hours—will be in Latin and Aramaic.

Filmic storytelling

"For me that's more real and hopefully I'll be able to transcend language barriers with filmic storytelling," Gibson told reporters on Friday last week.

"It's very visual and it's about something that has . . . affected civilization in every possible way you can imagine," the 46-year-old actor, a devout Catholic, added.

But Gibson, a perennial Hollywood favorite with lead roles in the hit "Lethal Weapon" series, "Braveheart" and more recently "Signs," acknowledged his choice of languages for the new film was causing headaches as far as US distributors were concerned.

"No one wants to touch something in two dead languages. They think I'm insane. Maybe I am!" joked Gibson, who was born in New York but grew up in Australia.

Liturgy

The abolition of the Latin mass was one of the key reforms adopted in the 1960s by the Second Vatican Council, which sought to bring the liturgy closer to ordinary people.

But Gibson is very much of the old school, and a Latin service is still held at the private chapel of his California home.

He also had some sharp words for the modern-day Catholic Church, rocked this year by allegations of child abuse.

"It's very easy for faith to be shaken these days. All this kind of pedophilia stuff in the United States, it's hard to hang on to a foundation with this stuff going on," he told Reuters.

Shooting will switch between the famous Cinecitta studios just outside Rome and cave-riddled Matera in southern Italy.

Gibson acknowledged he was filming "in the shadow of the dome" but brushed aside questions on whether the Vatican would approve of the film.

Priority

"I don't know what they like these days," he said, adding his priority was to make a credible film.

"Many people have told the story but . . . it's like looking at it from the wrong end of the telescope, I mean Jesus either suffers from bad hair or it's inaccurate or you don't believe it," he said.

But Gibson, who turned down Martin Scorsese's offer to play Jesus, has once again shied away from the role, giving it to Jim Caviezel, star of "The Count of Monte Cristo" and "High Crimes."

"There's two things I wouldn't do on film and I said this when I was in my 20s—I will never play myself if it ever comes to that, and I will never play Jesus." *Reuters*

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Greatest romantic films of all time

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

THIS week's Q&A:

From Crissy Clavel of Oton, Iloilo: "I like watching the soaps, 'Alicia' and 'Lucia,' because they are funnier than other telenovelas. Please feature the actors who play Roberto and Simon in 'Lucia.' Thank you."

The popular South American soap, "Lucia," (original title: "Girasoles para Lucia," telecast over GMA at 2:30 p.m. weekdays) which stars 25-year-old Peruvian-Italian actress Gianella Neyra (who trained as a model), is known for its comedic take on the usual soap-sudsy tale of an adventurous young woman who dreams of becoming famous.

Countess

Lucia Trevia (played by Neyra) takes it a bit too far, though, when she poses as a countess in order to win over a successful businessman, Jose Simon Landaeta (popular model/actor Pablo Martin). As fate would have it, she is later torn between Simon and his similarly handsome brother, Roberto (soap favorite Jorge Aravena).

The rest of the story unfolds in a refreshing comic narrative-a welcome change from the usual tension-filled drama serials. The soap was filmed in Peru between 1998 and 1999.

Jorge Aravena (real name: Jose Aravena Masias), who plays Roberto, was born on Oct 1, 1969 in Lima, Peru, but is based in Venezuela. He took up civil and computer engineering at the University of Chile. He is six feet tall and is married to Yenny Martinez. He has three kids (Jorge Luis, Claudia Valentina and Luis Fernando).

He has appeared in 11 telenovelas since 1992's "Loba Herida." His two most recent soap series are "La Revancha" (2000) and last year's "Secreto de Amor."

In the former, he plays a businessman who is killed by his brother after he threatens to expose his sibling's misdeeds, and earned good reviews for his performance. "Secreto" was another story. Critics panned it for the over-the-top performances of its actors. He stars in another GMA soap, "Samantha."

"CASABLANCA" stars Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart.

Finalist

On the other hand, Pablo Martin, who plays Simon, is 29 years old, 5'10", 180 lbs. and is a top Venezuelan model (Mastercard, Chevrolet) who was once a finalist in the Mr. Universe-Venezuela contest. Like Neyra, he took acting classes at the Lee Strasberg Institute in New York. He has made movies in Venezuela, Germany and the United Kingdom.

More than being an actor, he has found some celebrity as a model, and has traveled to Colombia, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Mexico, England, Spain and the United States. What a job, huh? His last soap opera was a Venezuelan tear-jerker, "Amantes de Luna Llena."

From Ceres Santos of Quezon City: *"I enjoyed the articles you wrote on good and bad films shown at the recent Cinemanila. I may not be an art film aficionado but I love watching films, especially romantic love stories. Can audiences really enjoy films in these festivals? Can you recommend films, old or new ones, that I can rent and enjoy?"*

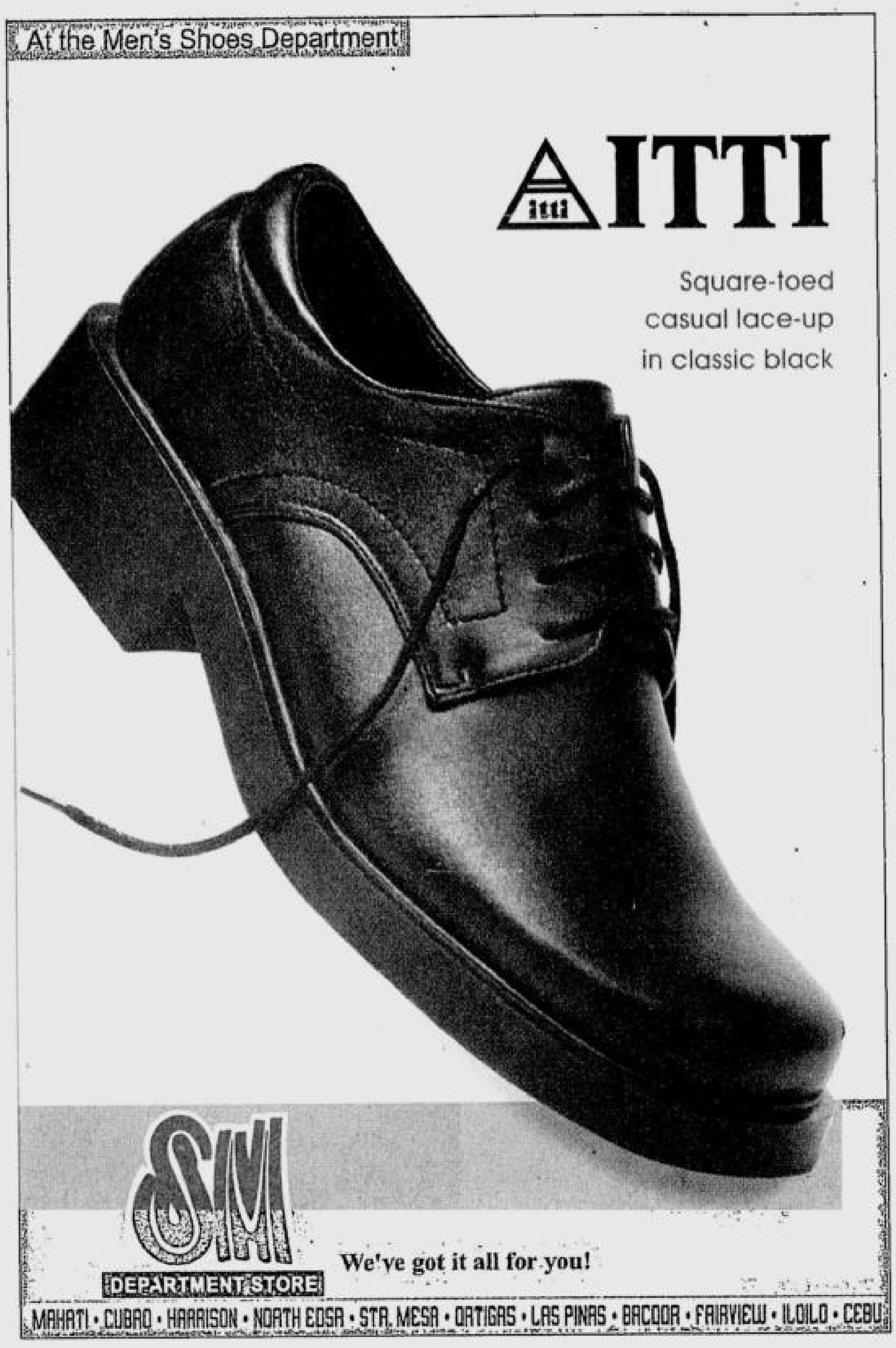
Thank you, Ceres. Yes, you certainly can enjoy films shown in these festivals. While it's true that some of the entries shown in these events are artsy-fartsy and can sometimes make you feel like you are watching wet paint dry, they are definitely better than a lot of the inane, formulaic potboilers released commercially in our theaters. But it's always wise to check the synopses (which are almost always available) and pre-buzz reviews.

Alternative venues

We do love watching films and wish to encourage people who enjoy good movies to patronize alternative venues showing films not just from the US but also from all over the world. Aside from Cinemanila, there's the yearly Pelikula at Lipunan festival, last week's Israeli Film Festival (picks: "Yana's Friends," "Clean Sweep," "The Policeman"), the ongo-

GREATEST/ D3

At the Men's Shoes Department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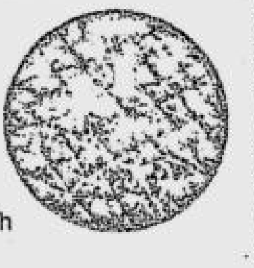
ALL ABOUT PORES



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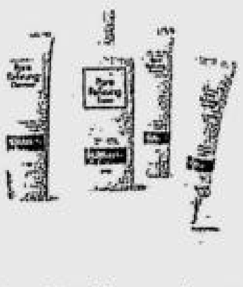

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'The Weakest Link' loses its unique edge

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER Edu Manzano left "The Weakest Link," the quiz show has been reeling from one low blow after another. First, Allan K was chosen to replace Edu—a decision that had a number of unfortunate repercussions.

Less intimidating

For one thing, since Allan was more *"masa"* in projection and appeal than the suave and "snooty" Edu, it was decided to scale the show's image and style down. The explanation was that this would make the show less intimidating and more "democratic," and therefore more popular. Unfortunately, the result turned out to be quite the opposite.

However, a number of the show's loyal viewers got disappointed and even irritated with the changes, and didn't view the program as regularly as before. As for the new viewers, did they really start watching the show because it was now fielding panels made up of household help, sexy dancers and such?

Since the more "democratized" lists of contestants weren't brainy, quiz-show types, their questions had to be simplified to the point of stupefaction. Despite their now being very easy, some of the questions still baffled the clueless contestants, whose really "duh" answers turned off more viewers.

Daft responses

After all, people watch quiz shows to learn things, get excited, and root for "walking-encyclopedia" types, not to agonize over uninformed contestants' daft responses. Sure, the really silly answers elicit some giggles, but too many of them are a real pain, and thus no longer funny.

More danger signs cropped up when the show started to air replays. Then, Allan really rocked the boat when, after only a few months as the show's less than competent quizmaster, he left the program because its telecasts would be cut down to once a week, and he wouldn't be making enough money to make doing the show worth his while.

Is that it for "TWL," or will a third quizmaster be found for it? Soon enough, we'll know.

Lessons learned

Hopefully, some lessons have been learned by the people behind the show from its current declining fortunes:

First, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Edu was doing well on the show, but his contract wasn't renewed and the program's producers felt they could replace him without making the program suffer. Wrong!

We trust that they now realize that their ability to manipulate viewers' preferences is limited. Allan K also needs to learn this lesson—specifically in terms of a clearer idea of what he can and *can't* do. "TWL" is very different from Allan's other shows, yet he felt he could adjust its requirements to his own advantage. Again, wrong.

Misguided experiment

As quizmaster, he looked uneasy, insecure, less than knowledgeable, and was too palsy-walsy with the contestants, who consequently behaved in too rowdy a fashion. Where was the quiz, and where was the master? Frittered away in a misguided experiment in "democracy."

It really is important for talents to know what they aren't talented at. They can't expect that viewers will cheerfully accept and admire everything they do.

Edu was appreciated because he played the role of the arch, impossible-to-please quizmaster to the hilt. When Allan tried to water it down into a facile exercise in *masa* cuteness, the show lost its unique edge—and its loyal viewers, who loved it precisely for that.

Well, as long as lessons *are* learned . . .

"TWL" QUIZMASTERS. After Edu Manzano and Allan K, who's next?

Greatest . . .

From page D2

ing Cine Europa until Sept. 29 at the Shangri-La (picks: the very funny "Born in Absurdistan" from Austria; the bittersweet "My Life in Pink" from Belgium; Claude Lelouch's unpredictable "And Now…Ladies and Gentlemen" from France, and the beautiful "The Discovery of Heaven" from the Netherlands); the recent Japanese/Eiga Sai contemporary films of drama and comedy (picks: the winsome "Adrenaline Love" and the ultimately cathartic "Nabbie's Love"), among others.

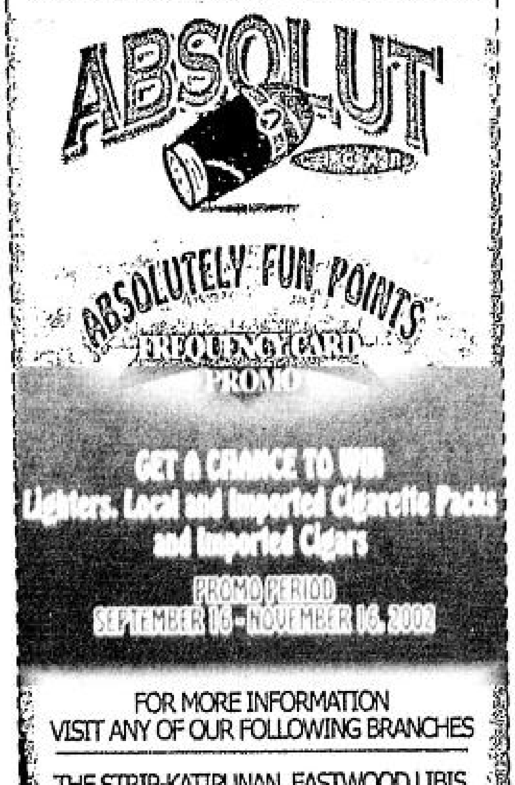
If you like romance and love stories, there are so many titles to choose from. For this purpose, we suggest you rent/purchase movies chosen by the American Film Institute (AFI) last June 11 as those among the "100 Greatest Love Stories of All Time."

Top 25

For lack of space, we will only list down the top 25 in the list, as ranked: "Casablanca" (1942), "Gone With the Wind" (1939), "West Side Story" (1961), "Roman Holiday" (1953), "An Affair to Remember" (1957), "The Way We Were" (1973), "Dr. Zhivago" (1965), "It's A Wonderful Life" (1946), "Love Story" (1970), "City Lights" (1931).

Ranked 11th to 25th: "Annie Hall," "My Fair Lady," "Out of Africa," "The African Queen," "Wuthering Heights," "Singing in the Rain," "Moonstruck," "Vertigo," "Ghost," "From Here to Eternity," "Pretty Woman," "On Golden Pond," "Now Voyager," "King Kong" and "When Harry Met Sally."

The good news is, we have seen copies (in different formats) of 24 of these films in different video shops. Except one: Charlie Chaplin's "City Lights," touted to be the Little Tramp's finest film.



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12. Prizes can be claimed at KODAK PHILIPPINES, LTD., 2247 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City 1299 during business hours.
13. To claim their prize, winners should present any valid identification (company ID, driver's license, birth certificate, SSS, passport) and registered mail sent by Ogilvy & Mather Philippines.

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Jett Pangan, vocals, shares, 'We're a band that just likes playing. When a little money comes in, there's a perception that you're already a rock star. Those people abroad can be rock stars because they can afford it'

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SAY NO TO VIDEO PIRACY!

The Dawn rises again

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

WE see the Dawn's return to the limelight with their comeback single, "Kalayaan," which is enjoying extensive airplay on radio stations everywhere.

Fulfillment

They have the soul and intensity of veteran musicians and the hunger, enthusiasm and urgency of young bands. They claim that being in a band brings fulfillment. And the general perception that rock bands are into drugs, booze and women irritates them.

"There are do's and don'ts. Most bands in the US are criticized for being successful because they become rich. Bands here are different. You don't get rich by having a hit single. It's absurd. *Ginagaya ng mga* band *dito yung mga* band abroad," Jun Boy Leonor, drummer, sighs.

Francis Reyes, guitars, adds, "A lot of the younger bands are into the rock 'n' roll lifestyle. They buy coke (drugs) to enhance their image. And they play because it's a source of livelihood."

Jett Pangan, vocals, shares, "We're a band that just likes playing. When a little money comes in, there's a perception that you're already a rock star. Those people abroad can be rock stars because they can afford it."

"When we put up the Dawn, it was for the love of music. We didn't expect money would come in or that we would last this long," Jun Boy interjects.

Intimidated

"We see people change their minds about us because we're in a band. I was a *probinsyano* studying in La Salle and I was intimidated by a lot of people, especially *sosyal* girls.

"This girl saw me playing, then she suddenly knew my name. You should be able to look at yourself in the mirror and see the same person. You shouldn't be affected by the changes happening around you," Francis shares.

Jett nods, "It's a gratifying job, just don't let it go to your head."

Teddy Diaz (the deceased guitarist in the '80s) wanted to call the band Dorian Grey. But the group found an old crucifix with "The Dawning of the Holy Spirit" inscribed on it. The inspiration was instantaneous, so they called themselves The Dawn. Early in 1986, they did gigs at Roxy's and played rock and new wave music for students. After their Lights and Sound launching concert, two record companies wanted to sign them up. *(To be concluded)*

DAWN. The enthusiasm and urgency of young bands.

Michael V . . .

From page D7

dem *na* Ogie-Michael ngayon."

How does Michael feel, now that they have equal billing in a movie? "*Siyempre, mas* proud *na ako ngayon.* Although, ever since, *hindi naman ako naging* particular *sa* billing."

What's his working relationship with Ogie? "*Importante ang pag-uusap,* as with any other show *na kailangan ng* rehearsal, *ginagawa namin yan.* Although *minsan, kahit na-*discuss *na namin, na-*rehearse *na namin, pag* actual *na, meron pa ring binabago.*"

Are there things that they don't agree on? "*Iba ang* humor *niya sa* humor *ko. Doon nagkakaroon ng* balance. *Medyo mataas ang* taste *niyan, e. Ako,* flexible."

So, he's more for the masses? "Not necessarily. *Kaya lang, hindi ko makakalimutan ang masa, kasi kailangan sa* show. So there are times *na rine-*restrict *ko yung ginagawa niya. Baka hindi masakyan, e. Ewan ko kung sumasama ang loob niya. Pati ako, humihingi ng* approval from the head writer of the show."

Audience feedback

So, how do they know when something's funny? "*Minsan, hindi pa namin alam* until *nailabas.* That's when we get the reaction of the audience, the feedback. *Tapos,* we develop from there. *Etong klaseng* humor, *magwo-*work. *Kailangan i-*test *muna sa* audience. *Kahit yung* Sex Balls, *hindi namin alam yun. Yung* 'Dating Doon.'

"We make it a point *na* two-way *yung* interaction. *Kasi wala namang tatawa kung walang* audience. *At kung walang magpapatawa, sinong tatawa?*"

And if it doesn't work? "If it doesn't work, sorry. We learn from that. We don't do it anymore. Or we try another approach, *para mai-*inject *pa rin yung* point *na gusto naming ipalabas.*"

It's a . . .

From page D6

Behind enemy lines

We were pleased to know that a woman doctor was given this medal. She wore an army uniform and often went behind enemy lines to treat civilians. Although she was not at the time a part of the regular army, she later became one. She was also captured.

This woman awardee wore pants, which was, at that time, considered shocking. Later she became a strong suffragist, but was pushed out of the movement for being "too radical." For one thing, the suffragists disliked the fact that she wore men's clothes.

Another awardee was a man named Snuffy Smith, who stood 5'4" and weighed 130 lbs. He only joined the war because he was ordered to do so by a judge—it was either the war or jail (as punishment for being lax in child support payments).

He won the Congressional Award because he fought a fire on a flying plane for 90 minutes, with just a fire extinguisher and water bottles. At one point, he even relieved himself on the fire. The plane landed safely and the crew credited him for it.

Biography

The supermodel whom Regan interviewed was Janice Dickenson and her biography was "No Lifeguard on Duty." Although Dickinson had dated famous male actors such as Jack Nicholson, Liam Neeson, Mick Jagger, Warren Beatty, Sly Stallone, and Bruce Willis, they were all mentioned only in passing. The interview focused on the model's inner story.

It involved a traumatic childhood characterized by incest, beatings and a mother who conspired to keep those secrets, and who loaded herself with drugs. Dickinson talks of being locked in car trunks, suffocated and beaten.

She also talks of her Hollywood experience, with the usual SDD—sex, drama and drugs.

But rather than becoming a "tell-all" interview, the focus was on her psychological story, delineating the difference between what is seen outside from what happens within her.

In the end, one gets a peek into a life that has passed through some "golden gates," gotten professional help (including rehab), and has managed to conquer. Not a bad story to tell.

Regan's thoughtful and careful handling of these stories, plus the fact that she gives them a new and different focus, gives her show an "A" rating. Take a look, if you want to dwell on something extraordinary.

Best Picture
A Beautiful Mind, Gladiator, American Beauty, Shakespeare In Love, Titanic, The English Patient, Braveheart, Forrest Gump, Schindler's List, The Silence Of The Lambs

Best Actor
Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe, Kevin Spacey, Roberto Benigni, Jack Nicholson, Geoffrey Rush, Nicolas Cage, Tom Hanks, Al Pacino, Anthony Hopkins

Best Actress
Halle Berry, Julia Roberts, Hilary Swank, Gwyneth Paltrow, Helen Hunt, Frances McDormand, Susan Sarandon, Holly Hunter, Emma Thompson, Jodie Foster

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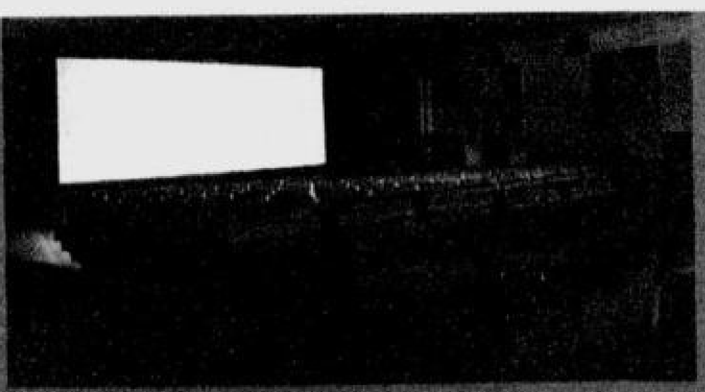
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SHOPWISE AND SAN MIGUEL TOAST TO OKTOBERFEST

Oktoberfest was born on October 1810 with the wedding of the Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig to Princess Therese from Saxony-Hildburghausen. Five days later, the National Guard organized a large public horse race to ensure that the Bavarian folk could also partake in the wedding celebration. It was decided that the festivel should be repeated at the same time the following year, which marked the birth of the "October-Festivals". Today, Oktoberfest is the largest public festival in the world.

Oktoberfest officially starts at 12:00PM, September 21st, which is marked by the tapping of the first keg in the Sottenhammel tent each year. The keg tapping is a very old tradition in which the mayor of Munich personally "taps" the first barrel of Oktoberfest beer.

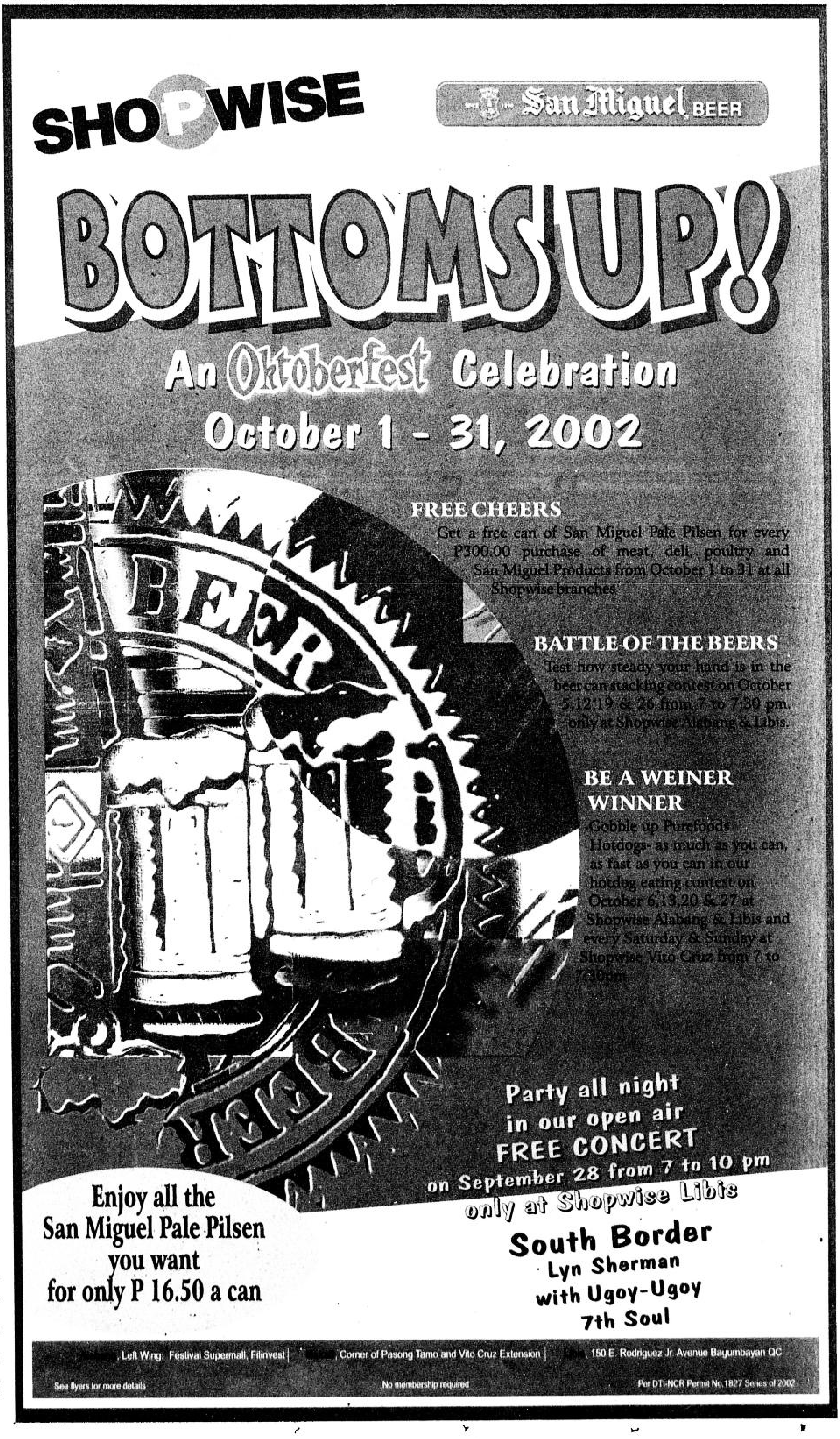
Here in the Philippines, Shopwise and San Miguel will join in this world renowned celebration with a month long festival that features great values, exciting games and prizes, and an open-air free concert. Be part of the official launch today at Shopwise Libis where Southborder, 7th Soul, and Lyn Sherman and the Ugoy-Ugoy Band perform from 7:00PM onwards. Test your mettle in the beer drinking contest for a chance to win a brand new Nokia 7650!

The fun doesn't stop there! The festivities at Shopwise continue throughout the whole month of October. A free can of beer will be given for every P300 purchase of frozen and fresh meat, deli, poultry and San Miguel products in our Free Cheers promo.

You can also test your balancing skills in Battle of the Beers Contest and win exciting prizes. This beer can stacking contest will be held every Saturday of October from 7-7:30PM at Shopwise Alabang and Libis.

And for the even more daring, Be a Weiner Winner! It's a race to the tummy in this hotdog eating contest to be held every Sunday of October, at Shopwise Alabang and Libis. Contests in Shopwise Makati will be held every weekend from 7-7:30 PM.

So come one, come all! Slip into your lederhosen, break out the beer and brats, and join the non-stop month-long party, only at Shopwise!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SWITCHING CHANNELS

Big stars and producers witness Malacañang awarding rites

By Edmund L. Sicam

THE BIGGEST names in the movie industry gathered at Malacanang Ceremonial Hall recently to witness the awarding of cash incentives to the writers of the 10 movies that are vying for seven slots in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival.

Fernando Poe Jr., Dolphy, Rudy Fernandez, Bong Revilla, Lily Monteverde, Malou Santos, Tess del Rosario, and Octo Orly Ilacad were just some of the personalities who graced the occasion. Also present were directors Peque Gallaga, who wrote one of the 10 winning scripts (Bong Revilla's "Agimat"), Chito Roño and Boots Plata.

Roy Iglesias was the winningest writer, with three of his scripts making it to the Magic 10. He got a total of P300,000. "Kulimlim," his script for Neo Films, made it at the last minute when "Balangiga" pulled out of the festival.

We were told that director Gil Portes was having a hard time getting Caucasians to shoot in the Philippines due to the budget involved. Iglesias' other two films are "Mano Po" for Regal and "Spirit Warriors II" for MAQ Productions.

The occasion also marked the awarding of P500,000 to movies that won the Pilipino Great Movie Arts Awards for the month of July and August. Mother Lily and director Boots Plata went up the stage to get the award for the July winner, "Pakisabi Na Lang Na Mahal Ko Siya."

Before President Arroyo arrived, we joined Mother and FPJ for a chat. The action star told us that he probably would ask for an extension of the deadline for the submission of the final prints because of the delays he and the other producers were encountering. In his case, he is shooting in Chocolate Hills for his "Alamat ng Lawin" but because of the rain, he was behind schedule.

Malou Santos and Assunta De Rossi received the award for the August winner, "Jologs." Earlier, we saw Assunta enter the Ceremonial Hall with the kids of Congressman Jules Ledesma. Later, the congressman sat with her for a while but disappeared when the actual ceremonies started. Later, we found out that Jules, Assunta and the kids paid a courtesy call on the President.

President Arroyo herself handed out the awards to the writers. Then she presented the memoranda of agreement with the producers in which the latter promised to complete production of their movies.

Initially, we thought the P 1 million incentive would also be handed out that day. However, we were told that the MMDA decided to give the incentive when the finished films were submitted. Another P 3 million will go to the producers of the final seven movies that will be shown during the festival.

Everyone was waiting for FPJ, whose "Alamat ng Lawin" is one of the 10 entries, to come up the stage and receive his MOA from the president. He is being touted as the opposition's probable candidate for president in 2004 so, when he and the president shook hands, cameras started clicking. True enough, their photograph made it to the front pages of the major dailies as well as the evening news on TV.

FPJ AND GMA. Will they face each other in the 2004 presidential elections?

Final episode

After ABS-CBN's "Pangako Sa `Yo" showed its final episode, it's the turn of GMA's "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin," which will end in mid-October. The finale will be capped by the wedding of Angelika de la Cruz and James Blanco in historic Lipa City, with wedding sponsors to be played by Mayor Vilma Santos, Rudy Fernandez, Bong Revilla, Rosanna Roces and Mel Tiangco.

However, the soap's end doesn't means Angelika is leaving the boob tube anytime soon. On the contrary, she is due to star in another soap with a new leading man. There are rumors that Robin Padilla, her co-star in a recent movie, will be her partner. If this pushes through, it should be one of the most formidable team-ups in television soap operas.

More awards

The Karangalan Philippine Dance Company, the country's representative to the 56th Fetes dela Vigne, won the highest award at the recently concluded Dijon International Folklore Festival at Palais Des Sports, Dijon, France.

The group bested other delegations from 16 countries including Switzerland, France Holland and Lithuania. The dance company received the Ville de Dijon trophy and Fetes Vigne Medallion after performing a medley of Muslim dances.

The company is headed by Joseph E.S. Daraman, founder and executive director.

It's a better world with Judith Regan

By Mona Gonzalez

SOMETIMES you want a talk show that will not sail you over turbulent waters (as with O'Reilly), nor belabor the most controversial issues of the day. At the same time, you do not want the flotsam and the jetsam (like Jenny Jones) nor do you want to find the comforts of your innermost sanctum (as you would with Oprah). You do, however, want to look outward and see a better world. That is what you could get with Judith Regan.

More thoughtful

In Judith Regan's show (which airs every Sunday, 3 p.m. on the Fox Channel) you won't get anything "kick-ass," but you can count on lots of information. Regan's show is more thoughtful, has less rage, deals with minimal gossip, and is not too gimmicky.

Not to say that she won't, sometimes, go for the "hot" teaser. We viewed one episode where Judith interviewed a supermodel whom she introduced in the most gossipy of ways.

But she steered the actual interview differently—in a most intelligent and sympathetic manner. The famous actors whom the model dated were named in passing, but the focus was on the model's personal story. Judith is her own policeman.

Publisher

It helps a lot that she is a book publisher. This gives her access to the topics she likes—stories that won't land in the headlines nor the rag sheets, but interesting nonetheless with their unique and ironic twists. And often, portraying the victory of the human spirit.

There is, for instance, the interview with Michael Fink who authored the book "Never Again" which Regan published, and which delineates the experience of individuals during the 9/11 tragedy.

He relates neat anecdotes, for instance the story of a quadriplegic who was on the 90th floor of the Twin Towers when it was hit. Ten accountants put him on an evacu chair (located on stairwells for the disabled) and took turns rushing him down 90 flights of stairs.

Another story is of a retired lieutenant who helplessly watched people jumping from the windows of the buildings. It was noted that these very people who jumped to their deaths had saved lives—because those watching from below backed away in horror. As a result, they weren't hit when the tower crumbled.

Regan's next story was an interview with an author who wrote about the Congressional Medal of Honor.

IT'S A BETTER/ D4

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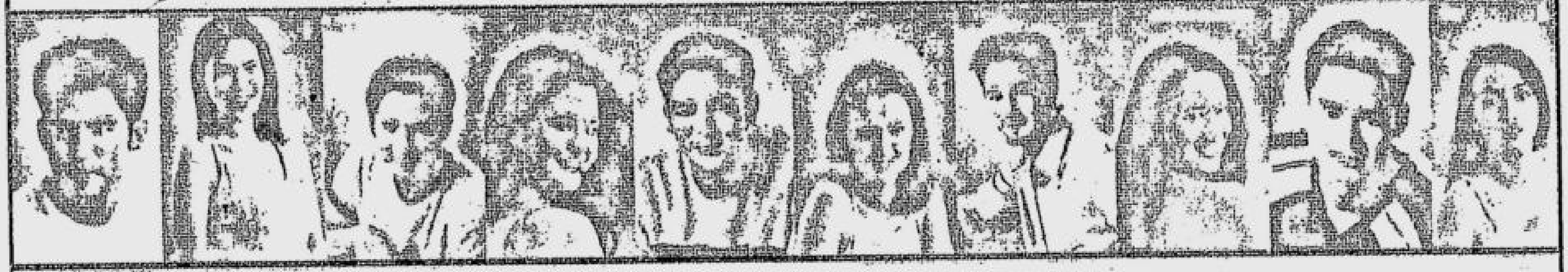


Unexpected Emmy award a big deal for Chiklis

By David Bauder

NEW YORK—After getting no sleep, Michael Chiklis stunned his fellow parents in the car pool lane by driving his daughter to school on Monday, his Emmy Award in hand.

Trophy

He showed off the trophy for best actor in a drama to her third-grade classmates. Dad was the ultimate show-and-tell.

"It was so cool to see their little faces beaming," Chiklis said.

Probably no other Emmy this year will be so transforming, both for the underdog actor who stars in "The Shield," and for FX, the basic cable network struggling for an identity that airs it.

His award was also the biggest surprise, particularly given that NBC's "The West Wing" was named best drama the third straight time and its cast members swept the other three drama acting awards.

Chiklis had allowed himself to dream—until he walked into the Shrine Auditorium and saw fellow nominees Martin Sheen and Kiefer Sutherland. His network president, Peter Liguori, privately figured Chiklis had no shot and was happy with the nomination.

"The Shield," a violent drama about a rogue cop, was the first new series put forth by the eight-year-old cable network in an attempt to follow HBO's playbook of building a reputation through quality programming.

Fraction

The series drew solid reviews and a decent-sized audience, for basic cable. Its average of 3.1 million viewers is a fraction of the 17.2 million people who saw "The West Wing" every week last season.

"This is monumental," Liguori said. "It has raised the bar for ourselves. In some ways this is one of the most rewarding days since I've been at FX, and also the most daunting day. We've seen what we can do. Now we have to do it on a more consistent basis."

FX immediately tried to capitalize by scheduling reruns of the show's first season, twice a night, starting Monday. New episodes aren't expected until January.

FX airs movies virtually every night, along with reruns like "Ally McBeal" and "The Practice." A new comedy, "Lucky," stars John Corbett of "Sex and the City" as a compulsive gambler. Another drama in the works, "Snitch," is about a hood turned FBI informant.

A conservative group, the Parents Television Council, successfully urged two dozen advertisers to stay away from "The Shield" because of its content, including an infamous scene of a cop urinating on a suspect.

Founder

"In a strange way, this just vindicates what we've been saying all along about the show," said Brent Bozell, founder of the Parents Television Council. "This has great production values and he is a fabulous actor. I'm glad he won the Emmy. The show is good enough that it doesn't need the raunch."

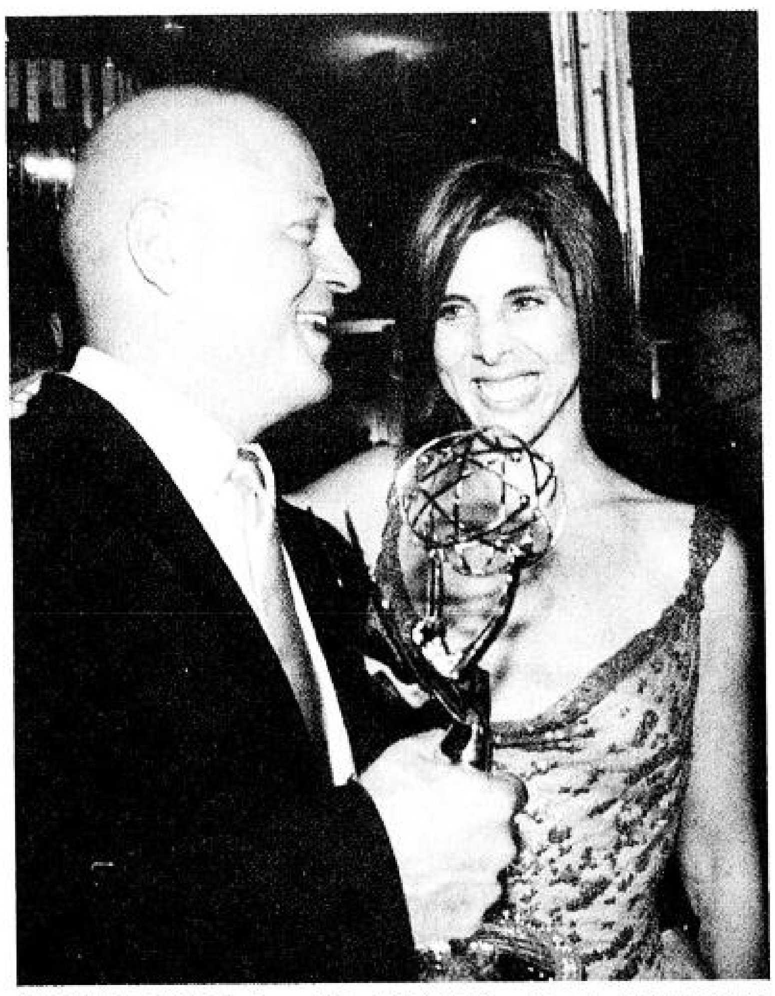
Even before his client had a chance to sleep, Chiklis' agent has started to field the sort of job inquiries that used to elude him.

Chiklis played John Belushi in the 1989 film, "Wired," and he's probably best known for the 1991-95 series "The Commish." He has portrayed Curly of the Three Stooges and a pudgy dad in the shortlived 2000 sitcom, "Daddio." Before "The Shield," he decided to lose 20 pounds so he wouldn't be stuck in fat character actor roles.

"I would hope that it would open up worlds in the feature world with material that before I had not been privy to," Chiklis said.

It's hard to change an image once Hollywood has settled on one, he said. Few things help more than an Emmy.

"He's a blue-collar actor and he just worked it, worked it, worked it until he got it right," Liguori said. "It's great to see that recognized." *AP*



MICHAEL Chiklis, left, and his wife Michelle celebrate his Emmy win at the Governor's Ball following the 54th Annual Emmy Awards. AFP

Michael V stars in 'Bestman'

By Edmund L. Sicam

A NINE-YEAR comedic collaboration and friendship culminates in the big screen this year with Maverick's latest movie offering, "Bestman…4 Better…Not 4 Worse." It stars Michael V. and Ogie Alcasid, a favorite duo of those who watch "Bubble Gang" on Friday nights. We ask Michael, what's their secret for staying together so long? "Although *hindi* similar *ang aming* personality, we complement each other," he observes.

Differences

Oh, really? What does he have that you don't have? Michael retorts, "*Marami. Mayaman yan, e.*" He laughs. "*Hindi, hindi, nagpapatawa lang ako.* Material things *na meron siya at wala ako, marami...*" We then call to Ogie at the other table, "Ogie, *mayaman ka raw...*" To which Michael says, "*Sagutin mo, pare. May sagot yan, e, pag sinabing mayaman siya.*"

Ogie says, with a smile, "*Ang kayamanan hindi nadadala sa langit.*" Michael repeats the phrase and says, "*Kaya bale wala sa kanya yun, kahit mayaman siya.*" So, what are Michael's riches in life? "*Mga anak ko at asawa ko.*"

So were Ogie and Michael put together on purpose, or by accident? "*Aksidente lang, kasi,* given a choice, before, *hindi ako sasama diyan,*" Michael laughs. "*Siya yung nagpatalo sa akin sa* 'Eat Bulaga' before. I remember. *Siya yung* judge. For some reason, *kami yung pinakamababa ang* score. *E* unanimous *na sa ibang* judges, *kami na yung panalo. Biglang binabaan niya. Natalo kami. Dahil sa kanya. Yun ang naging dahilan kung bakit ganito kami ngayon.* If not for that, *baka walang* tan-

MICHAEL V/ D4

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ADD <address>	Command to register subscriber's address. If subscriber is already registered, this command is used to change Address info. ADD alone gives a help message.
HUNT ON / HUNT OFF	Command to turn the daily clue service ON or OFF.
<a, b, c, d>	Command to answer the daily clue.
GUESS <place>	Command to guess the mystery place of Joyce's birthday bash. A correct guess = 1 raffle entry for the grand draw. *Note:* A subscriber can only guess the mystery place after answering the 3 daily questions correctly.
HUNT ENTRIES	Gives a message with the subscriber's total number of raffle entries earned for both the weekly & the grand draws for the HUNTING JOYCE Game.
HELP <keyword> Ex: HELP NAME or HELP	Gives help message on the keyword specified. HELP alone gives the subscriber a list of valid keywords for the service.

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The cast of "The West Wing" after the show won as Outstanding Drama Series at the 54th Annual Emmy Awards last Sept. 22. AFP

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'West Wing' proves power of presidency

By Steve Gorman

LOS ANGELES—The prime-time Emmy Awards have proved again that no one should ever underestimate the power of the presidency, at least on television.

Third year in a row

NBC's hit political series "The West Wing" was named best drama series for a third year in a row on Sunday, while earning acting awards for three of its cast members, burying the competition posed by HBO's upstart family of undertakers on "Six Feet Under."

NBC, which received 89 nominations overall for television's top awards, led its network rivals in total wins during the Emmy telecast, taking nine awards, followed by seven prizes for the premium cable channel HBO, which received 93 nominations.

The two networks tied at 24 for total number of awards won on Sunday and at the Creative Arts Emmys handed out last week, mostly for technical achievements.

Perhaps capitalizing on prevailing patriotic sentiments a year after Sept. 11, "West Wing" was part of a bigger trend in which favorite shows and familiar faces, including "Friends" and "Everybody Loves Raymond," largely prevailed over edgier fare on cable networks, such as HBO's "Six Feet Under" and "Sex and the City."

Final season

"Friends," television's top-rated show, which is headed into its ninth and presumed final season, won its first Emmy as best comedy series on its fifth time out in that category.

Jennifer Aniston, who plays Rachel Green on the NBC smash sitcom, claimed the prize for best actress in a comedy.

Another popular comedy, the CBS hit "Everybody Loves Raymond," garnered acting honors for three of its cast members—a first win for star Ray Romano for best actor, a first victory for Brad Garrett in the supporting role as Ray's older brother, and a supporting actress prize for Doris Roberts. It was her third career Emmy and the second for her role as Ray's meddling mother.

In the evening's biggest surprise, Michael Chiklis was named best actor in a drama series for his role as a corrupt cop in the FX cable network's controversial but critically lauded police series "The Shield." The award, the first ever for the FX network, took Chiklis by surprise and left him speechless.

Stockard Channing was one of the night's biggest individual winners, taking home two supporting-actress prizes—one for her role as the first lady on "The West Wing" and another for playing the mother in "The Matthew Shepard Story," the tale of the young homosexual college student tortured and murdered for being gay.

Acting laurels

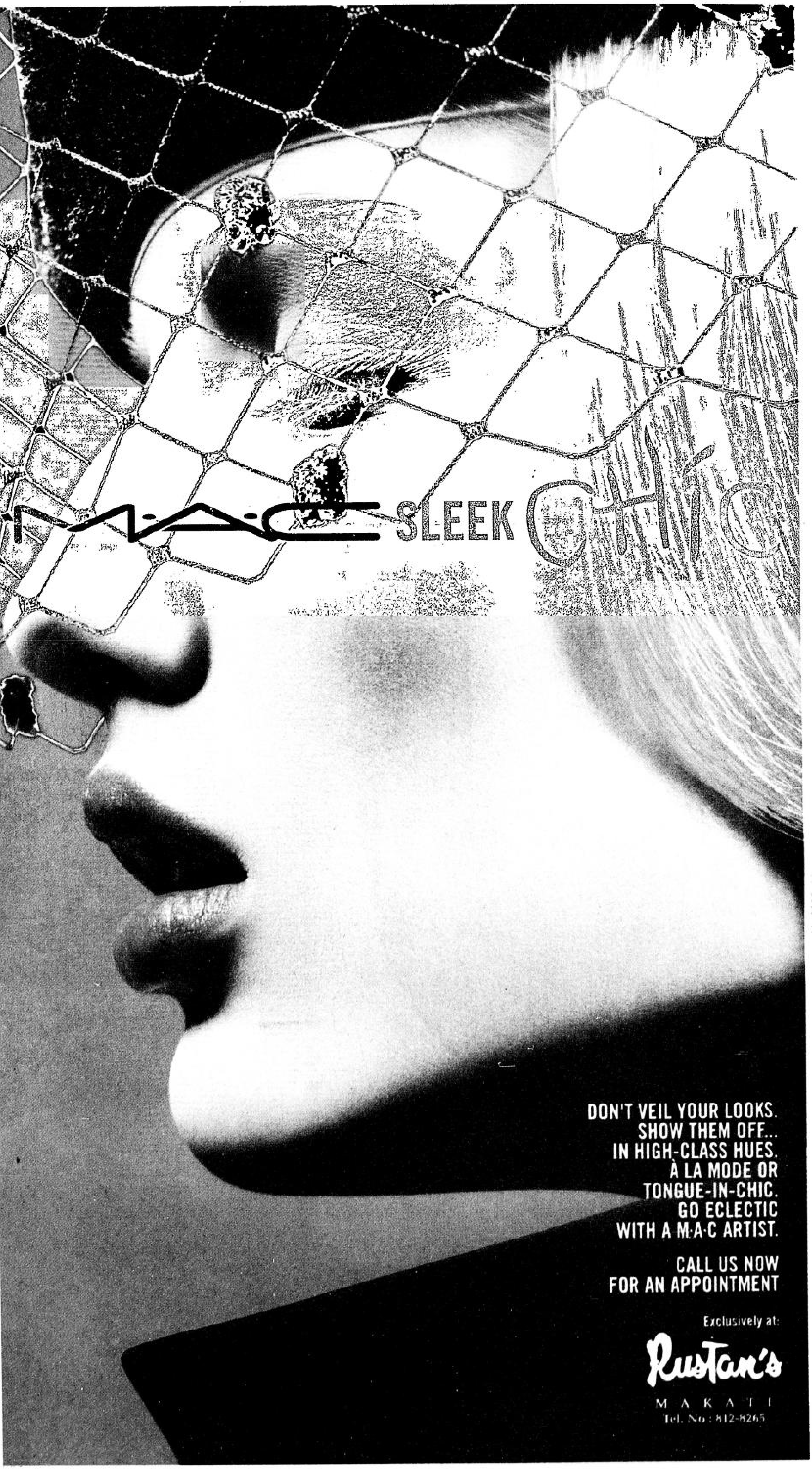
"West Wing" also garnered acting laurels for John Spencer, named best supporting actor in a drama series for playing the White House chief of staff, and for Allison Janney as best actress in a drama series as the presidential press secretary.

Janney previously won two awards as supporting actress for that role.

The evening mixed irreverent humor from host Conan O'Brien with a recurrent somber theme as Sept. 11 figured in several of the evening's big moments.

Last year's all-star concert extravaganza "America: A Tribute to Heroes," won the prize for best musical and variety special. The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences also paid special tribute to the major networks for their unprecedented simulcast of the telethon, which raised hundreds of millions of dollars for the survivors of the Sept. 11 attacks with performances by such recording stars as Bruce Springsteen, Neil Young and Billy Joel.

Backstage, former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said the special offered TV viewers comfort at a time when they were feeling tremendous loss. *Reuters*



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'Art for Change' on-the-spot painting tilt set for Oct. 6

By Nestor U. Torre

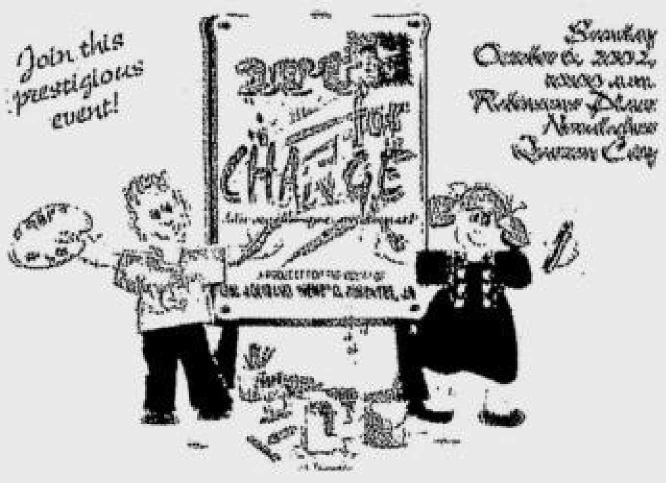
LAST year, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. sponsored a special project for the youth, an on-the-spot painting contest that was participated in by scores of precocious young artists.

Friendly competition

The project was so successful that it's being repeated this year, in cooperation with National Bookstore and Robinsons Place Novaliches, at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 6. The theme this year is "Art for Change." The tilt is a friendly competition that harnesses the artistic talent of young Filipinos in expressing their desire for change.

Contestants can participate in either of two categories—Category 1 for children aged 6 to 10, and Category 2 for children aged 11 to 15. All art materials will be provided. Registration is at 10 a.m., and the competition starts at 11 a.m. Entries should be completed by 2 p.m.

Winners will be announced at 4 p.m. There will be three winners in each category, and they will receive cash prizes and certificates. For more details, call 552-6733.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YOUNG artists should express themselves with spontaneity, freshness and zest.

Winning artworks

We were able to view last year's winning artworks, and were impressed with their technical skill and expressiveness. In an interview, the young artists who painted them thanked Sen. Pimentel for coming up with a contest that motivated them to come up with their best on-the-spot artworks.

They also candidly articulated the importance of art in their lives, and urged other youths to also express themselves through painting. It is hoped that, on Oct. 6, even more young contestants will show up at Robinsons Place Novaliches to compete in "Art for Change."

This year's theme should motivate them to use their artistic ability not jut to express themselves, but also to vivify their desire for meaningful change in their lives, and in society as a whole.

Spontaneity

We trust, however, that they express themselves not in a formal, cut-and-dried and truism-oriented way, but as the young people they are, with spontaneity, freshness, and zest.

This, truly, is young artists' advantage over some adults, that they are not bound by predictable and formal considerations, but can express their imaginativeness and creativity exuberantly through their paintings.

We underscore this point because, in some contests for young artists, excessive formalism inhibits the youthful contestants from being themselves. When too many conditions and requirements are presented, the young artists becomes too message- and theme-oriented, and their youthful exuberance and imaginativeness are dampened.

We trust that the "Art for Change" painting tilt is truly for *young* Filipino artists, in all their creativity and sense of wonder. And that the winning entries will give us fresh, new insights on change from the young artists' artistically and thematically honest perspective.

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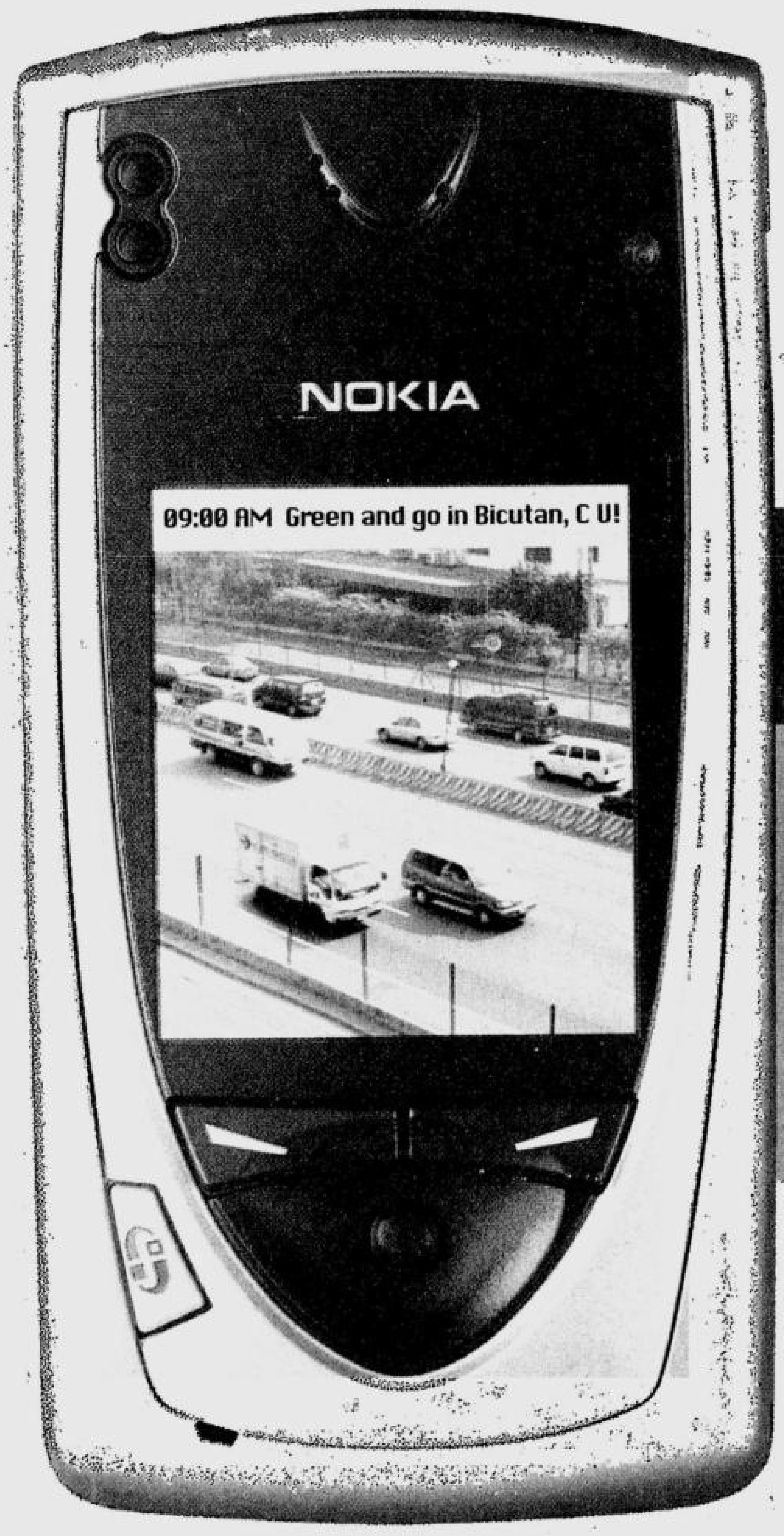

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Ryan Cayabyab writes songs that bind people together

By Jocelyn Valle

RYAN Cayabyab got his own music room at the back of his father's house in UP in 1976. Today, he has two music rooms: one is in his Filinvest residence, and the other is in his office at the San Miguel building in Mandaluyong City.

Good view

"A songwriter should have a place for himself," the maestro maintains, "where he can 'unearth' his thoughts." It's great if that place offers a good view, but it isn't a must.

Ryan calls his music room at home his workroom. It's 70 percent soundproof, he says, because it's a "room within a room." It also houses one of his two pianos (the other is in the *sala*).

Meanwhile, he refers to his office (as the executive and artistic director of the San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts) as the extension of his workroom.

It's also a microcosm of Ryan's musical life. Around his official desk, he's got a PC, a printer and a Roland keyboard. At the lounge area are a dining table, a video-CD audio system, a Clavinova, and a divider made of wood and *capiz* (reminiscent of the set design of his old TV show, "Ryan, Ryan, Musikahan").

Musical curios

Strewn neatly around the room are parts of Ryan's collection of musical curios—ethnic drums, a basket with dried giant *ipil* or tamarind that produces a melodic sound when shaken, Thai bells, big double-headed drums, and a sculpture that creates cowbell-like sounds.

Ryan keeps regular office hours, but he'd rather not be caught in traffic on his way home, so he stays around to finish some work, spending an average of 12 hours each working day, sometimes even on a Saturday.

When we visited him, he was working on the prologue for an opera on Juan Luna's life. "The music I'm writing is not really classical *na* classical," he avers, adding that the production stars Robert Seña as the painter-hero and Andion Fernandez as his ill-fated wife Paz.

We talk about his songwriting: Ryan remembers penning his first song at the age of 11. "It was based on a classmate's short poem titled 'Dirge,' *parang namatay na pag-ibig*," he explains, chuckling.

Jingle

It was only around 1972 when Ryan got to write another tune, a jingle for a commercial for Rustan's. "It was sung by Cynthia Patag, when she was just starting out in show business," he recalls with a smile.

He recounts joining in and losing a contest in 1976, because he chose to interpret his entry, "Isang Awit," himself. The following year, he got smarter and tapped Hajji Alejandro to sing "Kay Ganda ng Ating Musika," which copped the top prize in the 1977 Metropop and catapulted both songwriter and singer to prominence.

It was around this time when Ryan got serious with songwriting. Prior to that, he was content arranging songs and working as a musical director in shows. "As an arranger *kasi, hindi ka mauubusan ng trabaho. Para kang* supplier. There can't be any musical composition without an arranger," he offers. "*Kaya lang, walang sumisikat na arranger*."

Famas award

In 1978, Ryan won a Famas award for "Paraisong Parisukat," which signaled the start of what he now calls his "first wave" as a songwriter, with Basil Valdez as his singer. Together, they made immortal hits like "Nais Ko," "Tuwing Umuulan" and "Tunay na Ligaya."

Ryan's second wave came in the '90s via Smokey Mountain, the teen singing group that the maestro put together, and has written close to 40 songs for, ranging from the socially relevant ("Mama," "Paraiso") to the simply delightful ("Kailan," "The Coconut Nut").

Though those tunes were decidedly different, Ryan asserts that he didn't really change his musical style. "It was just my way of connecting with the new generation," he explains.

When the kids grew up and had solo careers, Ryan decided to take a break from songwriting, opting to produce albums for the likes of Lea Salonga and Ariel Rivera, instead. He also tried hosting ("Ryan, Ryan Musikahan," which ran from 1988 to 1994) and musical theater ("Rama-Hari," "Kapinangan," "Katy," "Fili," "Noli," "Ilustrado," "Alikabok," "Magnificat" and "Larawan").

Sacred music

He's also composed sacred music. He wrote "Eccleciastes," a six-minute piece for chorus and piano, in the '70s, and has since composed a dozen religious works, including "Misa" and "Gloria."

For those people who only know Ryan for his pop songs, written both for other artists and for himself (he has recorded three solo albums: "One," "One Christmas" and "One More"), check out the San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts-released CD, "The Sacred Works of Ryan Cayabyab," to have an earful of the maestro's heavenly works, particularly "Misa 2000," which won for him a 2001 Onassis International Cultural Competitions award for original music composition for dance.

Pop song

It may take a while for Ryan to write a pop song. He's not someone who works on a tune as soon as an idea hits him, he says, and adds that his songs are meant for a specific purpose and singer. "*Tatlong* songs *lang ang nasulat ko na walang nanghingi*—either *na*-inspire *ako* or *hindi ako makatulog*," he quips. Those three songs have found a place each in the albums of Sharon Cuneta, Ariel Rivera and Ayen Munji.

Ryan writes both the music and words for most of his songs. "*Parang* ping-pong" is how he describes his songwriting process. "Before, ideas usually came when I was driving," he shares. "Yeah, dangerous. Now I always have a pencil and paper with me—and nothing comes out. I really have to sit at the piano and tinker with it."

Incidentally, the baby grand piano that Ryan used to write his first songs was sold to Basil. "*Nagpapatayo kasi ako ng bahay noon*," Ryan recalls. "*Ngayon, balita ko na kay* Joey Benin (Side A band's bassist) *na*." He's now using an old Yamaha that he bought from another friend, composer, Gines Tan.

"Usually *mabilis akong magsulat*," he continues. "*Kapag matagal*, usually *'di ko na matatapos. Puro* scratch *lang. Pero mabagal ako sa* lyrics. *Nagugulat nga ako kapag may nakakagusto sa* lyrics *ko. Maiksi lang naman kasi, mga* two pages *lang*."

Milestone

Ryan doesn't want to change anything about his songs because each one marks a milestone in his life. "Though sometimes I feel like doing it," he laughs.

He likes songs with a nice and "singable" melody and a generous dose of emotion, but he can't single out a favorite among his works, or those written by other songwriters. He admires colleagues like Louie Ocampo, Willy Cruz, George Canseco, Trina Belamide, Cynthia Alexander and Lito Villareal. He also has the highest regard for Jim Webb, Burt Bacharach and the Beatles.

For the maestro, songwriting is a way to convey an idea, a means to communicate. "Regardless of the quality, *basta nag*-hit, immortalized *na 'yan*," he stresses. "These songs mark special occasions that bind people together."

Ryan's music does exactly that!

CAYABYAB. Works in his office an average of 12 hours a day.

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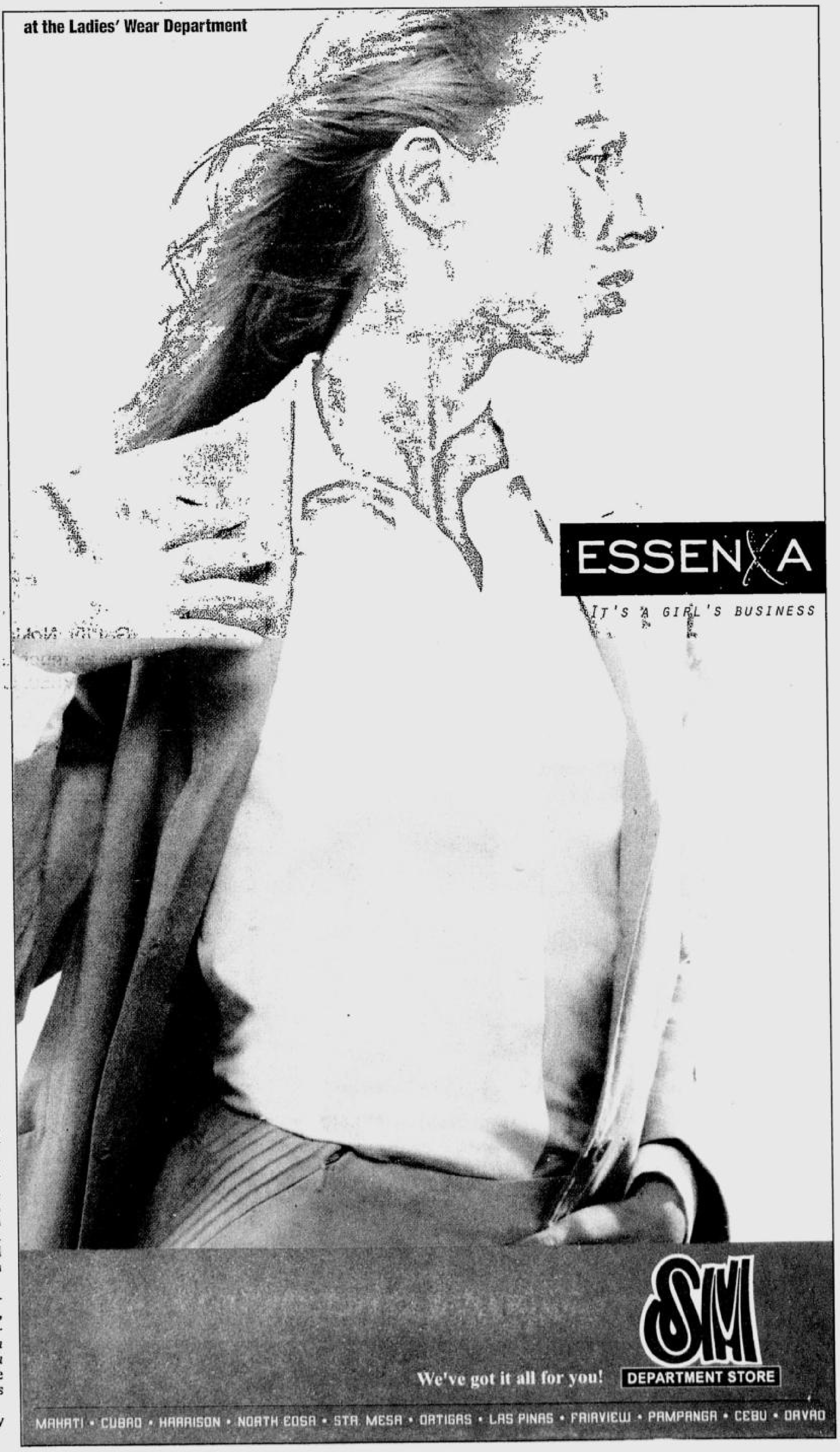
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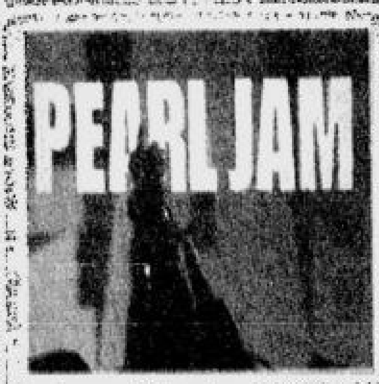

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TWO FOR THE SHOW

Philharmonic goes on the road

By Mary Ann Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

A FUSION of jazz, pop, classic, soul and R&B will invade the malls when "Philharmonic in Jeans" goes on the road starting Oct. 5 at the Ayala Center's Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

On its fifth year, the show will feature the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Prof. Rodel Colmenar, with concert artists like Verni Varga, Kyla, Lani Misalucha, Jaya and boy band 604.

The show is a joint production of Guess? Jeans USA and GMA Network. The idea is to produce a series of musical shows where artists perform wearing jeans.

At the press conference, newcomers Kyla, Toni Gonzaga and the all-male trio 604 gave a teaser of their musical acts.

Ross, Nino and Francis of 604 provide boy band music. They played with other boy bands like 98 Degrees and opened the NBA games in Toronto by singing the national anthem.

"We are honored to be here in our country and to work in the company of outstanding musicians and artists," says Francis.

Jericho turns 23

Jericho Rosales celebrated his birthday at Wasabi Bar and Grill last week. Amy Austria, Troy Montero, Piolo Pascual, Dominic Ochoa, Paulo Contis were among his well-wishers, while Parliament Syndicate and Giselle Sanchez provided the entertainment.

Since his soap, "Pangako Sa 'Yo" has ended, Jericho will concentrate on movies first before he embarks on another soap early next year.

ROSALES. Will act in another TV soap next year.

Catchy lyrics

Like their idol Francis Magalona, BladPac and Joz Anito (collectively known as Pariente) want to have a hit single in the hip-hop rap genre.

Competition is stiff, so they concentrate on writing catchy lyrics. They base their lyrics on their personal experiences: "Our song 'Crazy' has a story. *Nagsasagutan ang babae at lalake, pero kami ang nag-ra-*rap."

Gardo Versoza takes on his gayest role

Former sexy star turned serious actor Gardo Versoza is delighted that he was chosen to play Nora Aunor's best friend in the new soap opera, "Bituin." And it's no ordinary best-friend role for Versoza, because he plays a beauty salon owner.

Initially, Versoza was trying to deviate from the usual swishy type of gay character, but his attack was thwarted by the people behind the soap. *"Para raw kasing masyadong mataas at baka hindi agad maintindihan ng masa,"* he sighs.

But after one week of taping, he realized that there are things he just has to accept, adding, "Now I've learned to enjoy my character (Diony) and I think Nora does, too."

Anna Fegi can still reach her high notes

Talk about Anna Fegi's alleged deteriorating health doesn't hold water. She was in top form when we saw her in her first major solo concert at Philamlife auditorium.

She was at her finest in the Regine Velasquez medley, which she sang for her parents, who flew in from Cebu to watch her.

The revelation that night was the Hiraya Men's Chorus, which drew sustained ovations after rendering songs like Kenny Loggins' "First Time," Ariel Rivera's "Minsan Lang Kita Iibigin" and "La Cucaracha."

Hyperbeat at The Conservatory

Composed of Johnny Cruz, Cecil Tiangco, Nancy Cruz and Jonrif Cruz, the Hyperbeat band has just been signed up by The Peninsula Manila to provide musical entertainment for the guests at The Conservatory every Wednesday and Saturday, billed as Groove Nights at The Pen.

Hyperbeat's repertoire includes hits from Abba, Spandau Ballet, Santana and current billboard chart-toppers.

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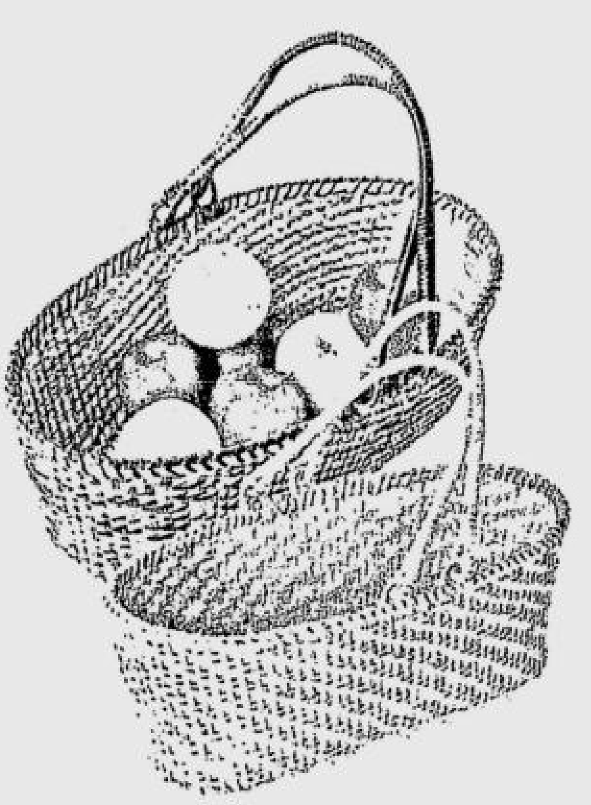

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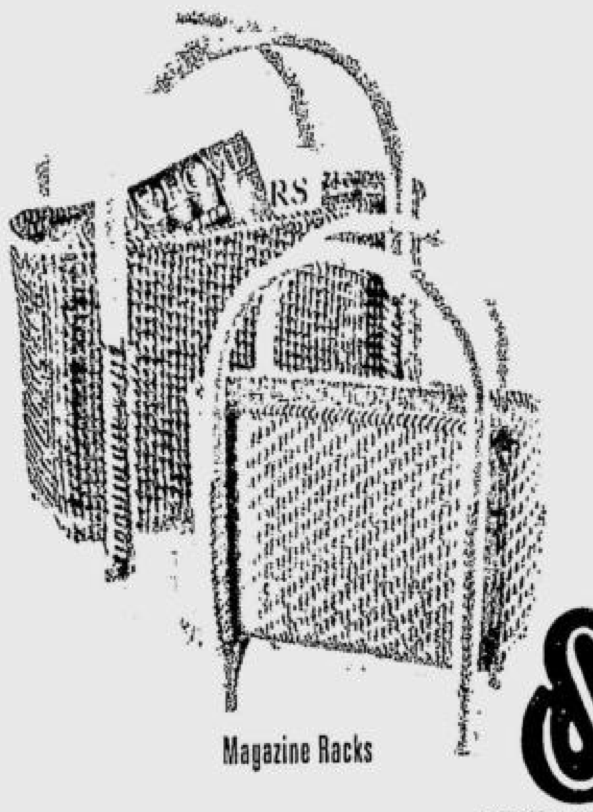

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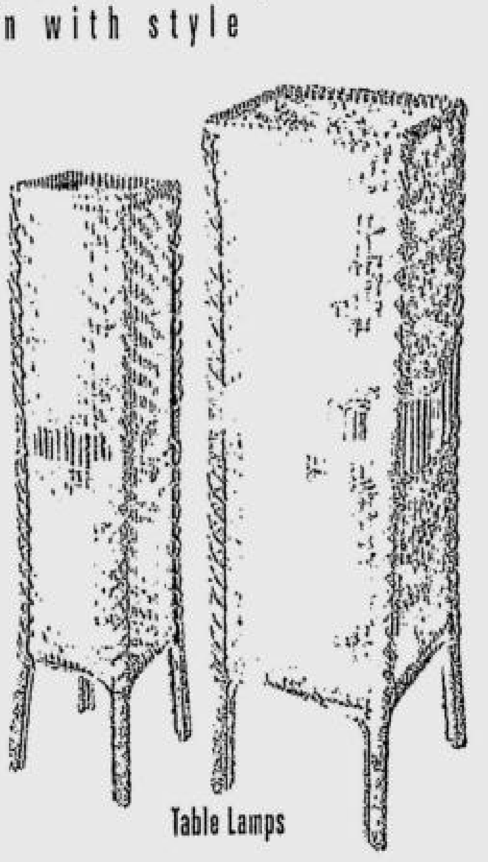

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Alejandro Sanz adds to his Latin Grammy haul

SANZ accepts his award for record of the year during the 3rd annual Latin Grammy Awards.

AP

By Christy Lemire

LOS ANGELES—Carlos Vives was the big story before the Latin Grammys, but Alejandro Sanz was the one everyone was talking about afterward.

Sanz swept the major categories at Wednesday night's ceremony, taking album, song, and record of the year honors. The Spanish singer, who was nominated for four awards, won album of the year for "MTV Unplugged" and record and song of the year for "Y Solo Se Me Ocurre Amarte."

Title track

Vives, who came into the competition with a leading six nominations, went home with two awards. The Colombian singer was honored for best contemporary tropical album for "Dejame Entrar," which also earned him a Grammy in February, and best tropical song—a songwriters' award that he shared for the album's title track.

Sanz's haul now includes seven Latin Grammys in two years. Last year, Sanz's song and album "El Alma Al Aire" earned him four Latin Grammys—record, album and song of the year, plus best male pop vocal album.

Two years in a row

"It embarrasses me principally because all of the artists who are here deserve it as much as I do," he said backstage in Spanish. Then he added in English, hesitantly, "Two years in a row is too much."

Mexico's Ramon Ayala y Sus Bravos del Norte were honored in both categories in which they were nominated, best norteno album for "El Numero Cien" and best regional Mexican song for "Del Otro Lado Del Porton."

Much of the attention before the ceremony centered on Cuba. Its 22 nominees, including jazz pianist Chucho Valdes, couldn't get entry visas in time to attend. As a result, Valdes wasn't there to accept his award for best pop instrumental album for "Canciones Ineditas"—his first Grammy after decades in the business.

As the show began on CBS, veteran singer Celia Cruz won the first award announced—best salsa album, for "La Negra Tiene Tumbao." It took her a while to reach the stage in a tight red dress, but once she did, she promptly shouted for the audience, which gave her a standing ovation, to sit down.

"Excuse my English because it's not very good looking. What I want to say is thank you to all of you," she told the audience in English before launching into a high-spirited Spanish acceptance speech.

Bilingual ceremony

It was a bilingual ceremony for the most part, with presenters and winners alike switching from English to Spanish.

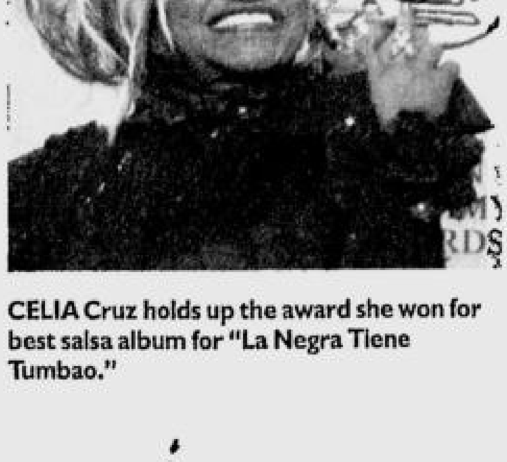
"Excuse me, but I gotta talk to my people in Spanish," Shakira said before switching languages for her acceptance speech. The Colombian superstar won best video for "Suerte," the Spanish version of her huge English hit, "Whenever, Wherever."

During the show's entertainment, Carlos Santana, winner of nine Grammys and three Latin Grammys, shared the stage with the rock band P.O.D., while Shakira performed in low-cut blue jeans and a midriff-baring pink top. But a highlight was Mexican singer Thalia, wearing a tiny, low-cut dress and surrounded by soaring flames.

One of the evening's sentimental favorites was Vicente Fernandez of Mexico, who took home the Latin Grammy for best ranchera album for "Mas Con El Numero Uno." It was the first Grammy of any kind for Fernandez, who has recorded 55 albums and is known as the "king of ranchera music."

Person of the year

The Latin recording industry honored him Tuesday night as its person of the year. On Wednesday, he performed with his son, dressed in an enormous sombrero and carrying a gun in a holster.



CELIA Cruz holds up the award she won for best salsa album for "La Negra Tiene Tumbao."

Although this was the third annual Latin Grammy Awards it was only the second Latin Grammy show. Last year's event, scheduled for Sept. 11, was canceled because of the terrorist attacks and winners received their trophies later.

That show had originally been scheduled for Miami but was moved to Los Angeles, site of the first show, after a dispute over where anti-Castro demonstrators could protest.

"This year, we come together at the Kodak Theater, in Los Angeles, with a new sense of commitment to continuing our way of life," said actor Jimmy Smits as he and co-host singer Gloria Estefan began the show with a brief tribute to the attack victims.

"We honor those we lost and those that helped us get back on our feet," said Estefan. "We love you, New York." *AP*

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VEGA, SABARA, GRINT, AIKEN AND HOECHLIN. Won their prized roles over thousands of other auditionees.

New child stars play key roles in important film productions

By Nestor U. Torre

NOW that Hollywood is making more movies for the family audience, the demand for new child stars has increased. Talent scouts and casting directors have had to intensify their search for talented and appealing boys and girls to topbill the many family movies that are being made each film season.

Offspring

Even mature dramas require child actors to play their combative leads' offspring, so the need for young talents has become even more pronounced.

And the new child discoveries are—

Alexa Vega and Daryl Sabara. The roles of Carmen and Juni Cortez in the "Spy Kids" film series are prized because they're among the few child-superheroes ever created for the big screen. Thus, millions of kiddie fans empathize strongly with their exploits, guaranteeing the young actors a loyal following even after their childhood years.

Another come-on is the fact that the two Cortez siblings' dad is played by Antonio Banderas, no less. Also, "Spy Kids" is full of the techno toys that kids love so much.

Rupert Grint in the "Harry Potter" film franchise. In "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," Rupert reprises his role as Ron, the youngest Weasley brother and friend to Harry. How did he get the plum "sidekick" role?

Video

After Rupert heard about the auditions for important parts in the first "Harry Potter" film, he sent in a letter and photo. When that got him nowhere, he sent in a video of himself.

In the imaginative video, he did a rap on how much he wanted to be in the movie. Also, he dressed up to look like his drama teacher—who was a woman!

Well, that did it for him. Before he knew it, he got a call from the casting director, who was impressed with Rupert's gumption. He then did some screen-tests—and the part of Ron was his!

Also key in Rupert's clinching the role of Ron were their many similarities: They both have red hair, like sweets, have big families, love to wear hand-me-downs—and are terrified of spiders!

Important roles

Finally, "Road to Perdition," Tom Hanks' latest hit, has two important roles for boys, as the sons of Hanks' character. After auditioning more than 2,000 young actors, the movie's casting manager chose 12-year-old **Liam Aiken** as Peter, and 13-year-old **Tyler Hoechlin** as Michael.

Liam is already a familiar face to movie audiences. He co-starred as Ben, Julia Roberts' stepson, in "Stepmon." More recently, he appeared in "Sweet November" with Charlize Theron and Keanu Reeves, and in "I Dream of Africa" with Kim Basinger.

Liam was only six years old when he made his Broadway debut in the 1996 revival of Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House." The following year, he made his feature film debut as Parker Posey's son in "Henry's Fool."

Sensation

Tyler has the bigger role and caused a sensation when he won it, because he was a relative unknown who impressed the people who auditioned him with his sheer talent and sensitivity. Prior to "Road to Perdition," his only screen exposure was in two small films, "Family Tree" and "Train Quest."

Despite his lack of experience, Tyler acquitted himself well in his demanding dramatic scenes with Hanks.

Producer Dean Zanuck recalls when they first zeroed in on Tyler: "We were looking at one audition tape after another, and no one was hitting the mark. Then Sam (Mendes) called me into his office and said, 'I think we've found our kid.'"

Tape

Director Mendes explains, "It's what you hope for—that you will turn on a tape and know within two seconds that this is the one. Then, you just pray that when you actually meet the actor, he's everything you hoped he would be.

"The moment Tyler walked into the room, it was clear he had something special, and I defy anyone not to notice it the minute he appears on the screen. He is a very skilled young actor with a wisdom in his eyes that belies his years."

More fathers and sons in the movies

By Behn Cervantes

FAIRBANKS, SR. AND JR. The son never quite matched his father's success.

THERE were those in Hollywood who believed that acting talent was in the actor's genes. Therefore, after a senior actor succeeded in the film capital, his junior thought he could readily take over from where his dad left off. Alas, that was proven wrong in most cases.

Talent and charisma

The name may have helped at the start, but in time the juniors had to make it on their own. Either they had the talent and charisma or they didn't. Sometimes the junior had to carry the weight of his father's fame and mass appeal. This could be quite an onus and often proved detrimental to the son in creating his own image and following.

Certainly, one of the most successful stars of the silent era was Douglas Fairbanks, the swashbuckling actor who top-billed such vintage classics as the 1924 epic "The Thief of Bagdad."

Acceptance

Douglas, Junior never quite equaled his father's success, but enjoyed social and industry acceptance during his long life. He was a much-desired Crown Prince of Hollywood's kingdom. But his parents were stunned when a 26-year-old starlet named Joan Crawford eloped with the 19-year-old Junior.

To her credit, the future Mother Dearest egged him on to aggressively plot his own career. With Joan's help, he attempted a wider range of roles. Often he showed he had even more charm than his vastly popular father.

As a result, he starred with such classic stars as Irene Dunne, Bette Davis, Loretta Young, Dolores del Rio, Ginger Rogers and Joan Fontaine. He was the villainous Ruepert of Hentzau in "The Prisoner of Zenda." He also starred in "Gunga Din," "The Corsican Brothers" and "Sinbad, the Sailor," in roles that recalled his father's athleticism and elan.

Disguises

Lon Chaney was known as The Man of a Thousand Faces. He was a son of deafmute parents in Colorado Springs. An early love of theatre drove him to seek stardom in Hollywood. Leaving Colorado Springs, he worked hard to become a Hollywood legend admired for his disguises and prosthetics that amazingly transformed him from Quasimodo in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" into the Phantom of the Opera.

He would become a bald convict in "West of Zanzibar," an old lady in "The Unholy Three" and a circus clown in Leonid Andreyev's "He Who Gets Slapped." He also turned himself into a dim-witted Russian peasant, an armless knife-thrower, a Limehouse criminal, a crippled bishop, an ape-like mad scientist, and an evil saloonkeeper with a cataract eye.

However, his son who closely resembled him didn't amount to much. He did not possess his father's presence so his screen appearances only reminded them of the difference between the father and his Junior. But he became a reliable supporting actor. In 1940, he was critically praised for his portrayal in "Of Mice and Men." He worked consistently, usually in a supporting capacity in horror films, until the '70s.

Naturally, he had hoped to play his father in the 1967 Universal-Intenational bio-pic "The Man With A Thousand Faces," but Hollywood producers miffed him by casting instead the more popular hoofer turned actor, James Cagney.

The popular Blackbird band, then and now

By Erika T. Tariman

MERK AND LESACA. Once more, with shared love for music.

POP violinist John Lesaca and jazz vocalist Richard Merk are not considered a musical twosome these days. But, in the early '80s, they were inseparable.

SRO crowds

For at least three years, they were part of the Blackbird Band, which attracted SRO crowds at the Hyatt's Calesa Bar.

The band was named Blackbird because they loved a Paul McCartney song of the same title and Richard did an unforgettable rock version of it.

Before Blackbird, John was part of the HR (Hyatt Regency) Band. They had no regular vocalist and had to make-do with available volunteers. But, when Richard came along, they found their soloist.

Apart from Richard and John, the members of the Blackbird band were Sonny Tolentino (bass), Dong Zamora (guitar), Uly Avante (percussion), Mario Elepano (keyboard), Jun Viray (drums), and Egay Abenir (guitar).

Energy

"Masarap talaga ang tugtugan noon," muses Richard, who recalls that even during breaktime and their days off, the members of the band were together. "We organized billiard tournaments and we pitted ourselves against members of other bands. We didn't seem to run out of energy. We rehearsed new songs after our regular gig, and that was close to five in the morning!"

Even when their following increased, they didn't take their performances for granted. They constantly rehearsed new songs and tried out new arrangements.

"We felt we had to be dynamic because we didn't want to repeat the same, old program every night," John says. "We had to try new songs because we could not afford to bore our audiences. Every night was different for us."

Requests

"There was an unruly side to our Calesa Bar days," John admits. They also got slips of paper requesting—no, not favorite songs—but intimacy. Did they oblige?

"We would ask the waiters who sent them, but that's all. I felt flattered but I did not pursue it," John grins.

Those were the good old days of the Blackbird band. And they will come alive again at the opening of Merk's Bar Bistro at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati. Call 830-8690.

A million thanks to you

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

Just for today, I'd like to take time out to give a million thanks to the loyal followers of this column. Indeed, I'd like to express the depth of my appreciation for all their letters of support. You know, Clara, ever since I started writing these letters to you, my mailbox has been deluged with letters. For every Dear Clara column that comes out, I get a minimum of 60 e-mails. It gives me immeasurable joy to get lost in cyberspace, reading and replying to all those wonderful messages.

World map

I'm thrilled to get letters from practically all over the world—especially the US, Canada, Australia, Europe and Southeast Asian countries. I'm amazed to also hear from people in such places as Africa, the Middle East, Ireland, East Timor, Swaziland. Remember, I had to look at the world map to find out where that last one was?

The letters are usually written by compatriots hungering for news from home, but not a few come from foreigners. The realization that we connect to them in ways that defy language, culture, time and space gives me immense pleasure, indeed.

Most of the letter-writers just want to tell me that they're praying for me, and I'm eternally grateful. I can almost feel God smiling in His heaven as the pearly gates must already be shaking by now because of all the supplications sent up in my behalf by the prayer brigades that have spontaneously mushroomed all over the earth! Now, I know, as I claim, that the Lord is going to heal me.

Medical update

I'd like to give them a medical update, Clara. As you know, I still go for dialysis thrice a week, I still watch my diet—under the supervision of the nurse and your ever watchful eyes, of course. I can only eat seven camachiles—not a morsel more! And I tell you, the heat from your eyes—when I sometimes take just one tiny bit beyond the limit—must be hotter than hell!

My dear Clara, I'd also like to thank your Tito Boy and Tita Maria Montelibano for introducing me to your Tito Boy Fajardo, a natural healer, who I believe is a Godsend. He has opened me up to the therapeutic wonders of *banaba* tea and the restorative powers of accupressure. Now, of course, I don't want to give my doctors a heart attack but, know what, Clara? It is to the *banaba* and massage that I attribute the significant and sustained lowering of my creatinine.

I'm not about to prescribe this to every patient undergoing dialysis. I'm just saying that, from all indications, it works for me. I believe God is giving me a miracle and He chose your Tito Boy Fajardo as the bearer of this gift.

Clara, I also get letters from fellow patients asking for help with their dialysis. But I'm very sorry to say that, given my present circumstances, I still don't have the capacity to help. While I've been able to inspire several people to share their material blessings by sponsoring the dialysis of a few patients, I really don't have the structure to do this on a more systematic and sustainable manner.

Resources

But I do continue to exhort those who have the resources to make a difference in the lives of others. You shall help not only them but yourselves, too, for a gift of life enriches the giver more than the recipient. As you prolong the life of another, you also give meaning and substance to your own life.

(If you want to sponsor a patient's dialysis, please get in touch with me through e-mail.)

Clara, we've talked about this but I'd like to tell you again: Letters from fellow patients strengthen my resolve to establish a dialysis center for the poor. I'm heartened to hear from many individuals and groups who are willing to help make this dream of mine a reality. They share my vision of not just providing health care for patients with renal failure, but also of improving their quality of life.

Dialysis is not death. There is life despite dialysis. And that life is just as precious, it is as much a gift from God as any other. That life needs to be nurtured and nourished and cared for—and made to develop and live out its fullest potential. I'd like this to be my mission in life, Clara. Before, I was afraid, but not anymore. I now see this as the legacy that God wants me to leave behind when, in His perfect time, He eventually calls me back to Him.

Clara, I have also received long letters from people I now consider friends after they unloaded to me the checkered stories of their lives—how the many twists and turns all helped to bring them to the glory of their dreams. These people say I inspire them, but I'm the one truly inspired by them. They have heart-warming, life-affirming tales of courage and faith—proof of the indomitability of the human spirit and of the magnificent omnipotence of God.

Inspiration

And, yes, Clara, perhaps because of the inspiration they got from the quality of our relationship that they gleaned from my letters to you, there were a few letters relating to me the trials, and travails of parenting. They lament that, these days, value is vested on independence and empowerment—and weaning away from the influence of parents and family is subliminally encouraged.

I think you will agree with me, Clara, that parents should more emphatically assert their authority over their children at this time when they have to compete with modern technology for their attention and allegiance. I also think that parents who abdicate their role sin against God because this effectively means that they renege on their contract with Him to be good stewards of the children He entrusted to them.

Of course, Clara, I'm all for empowering children and giving them independence for them to know the limits of their potential and to develop it to its fullest. But parents must choose the values that their children should grow with, and stand for.

Right seeds

You know, Clara, fertile grounds can also grow weeds if we don't plant the right seeds in them. A genius can become either the boss of a huge business empire or the supreme lord of the criminal underworld. Which path he shall choose to take in his life is largely determined by the values instilled in him by his parents.

I also receive letters from children, Clara. Some say how they wish their own parents had told them the same things I told you. Others say that, after reading my letters to you, they appreciate their own mothers more. There are those who say they are clipping my letters so that, when they have their own children, they'll echo their points them.

Marvelous affirmations, aren't they? And I thank God for planting in my mind this idea of writing to you through this column. Truth to tell, the healing I get from writing to you—and from the letters I get from readers because of it—is more tremendous than the dialysis I get three times a week.

Yes, Clara, connecting with you and with others heals me!

For your comments and insights, please e-mail me thru: <badids2000@yahoo.com>

Promising . . .

From page F4

for Goldberg, and a Best Original Screenplay trophy. Oct. 5, Saturday, 10:30 p.m.

"Gladiator" with Russell Crowe and Joaquin Phoenix. About a Roman general who returns to Rome as a gladiator after his wife and son are brutally murdered. Crowe won a Best Actor Oscar for his performance in this film by Ridley Scott. Oct. 23, Wednesday, 9 p.m.

Music buffs cite the best local bands

By Noelani Torre

THERE are countless bands flooding the local music scene these days, with sounds ranging from pop to rock and heavy metal. No matter the political or economic situation, you just can't stop the Filipino from making or listening to music.

Still, not all bands are created equal. There are some groups that stand out from the rest. We asked several avid music buffs to cite their choice as the best local band. Here's how they "voted":

Youth culture

"Eraserheads. *Napaka*-local *ng* tunes *nila at* Filipino *ang* primary language *na ginagamit nila. Naka*-capture *nila yung* culture *ng kabataan.*

"Akala ko nga dati walang sense *yung* songs *nila, gaya nung sa ibang* bands *na sigaw nang sigaw pero wala namang sinasabi, hanggang pa*-heavy *lang. Pero maganda pala yung mga* lyrics *nila.*

"Napaka-poetic *pa nga kung minsan na ang dating ay parang tumutula na sila sa* Filipino. *Hindi lang sila pang-masa, pero para sa lahat.*

"*Galing sa iba't ibang* social levels *ang mga* listeners *nila. Kahit sino kasi nakaka*-relate *sa mga kanta nila. Parang* Alanis Morisette *ang* impact *at dating, nakatutok sa* youth."—***Mariani Aquino, UP Diliman.***

Pinoy pop

"Side A. They're one of the pioneers in their kind of music, a kind of Pinoy pop. Their band is also very solid, they're not known for feuding, etc. They've been in the industry for a long time and their sound is very distinctive. *Walang makakagaya sa* falsetto *ni* Joey.

"They're also good composers—they make their own songs, though they also do covers. *Minsan nga lang, parang mas maganda pakinggan yung* covers *kaysa sa* originals *nila.*

"*Hindi lumalaos ang mga kanta nila, sa simula hanggang ngayon, kinakanta pa rin.* Timeless *ang mga* songs *nila. Hindi lang sila sumusunod sa kung anong uso, meron silang sariling* sound."—***Paulina Deocales, Ilocos Sur.***

Natural

"Parokya ni Edgar. *Natural ang dating nila, yung tipong ine*-express *lang talaga nila kung ano yung* personality nila. *Sila ang nagsimula at nagpauso ng ibang* style *ng pag*-perform. Game *tsaka* honest, *walang* pretensions.

"*Gusto ko yung* songs *nila kasi mas nakaka*-relate *ako sa* subject matter. It's more about real experiences, *at yung* focus, on real-life situations. *Mas madaling tanggapin ng* Pinoy.

"*Iba ang dating ng* songs *nila, hindi* normal mainstream *pero* in. Everytime I hear their songs, I can't help singing along. *Sumikat sila dahil nag*-create *sila ng sarili nilang* style, *kasi bin*-reak *nila yung* traditions *ng mga* bands before them."—***Yen Larase, Quezon City.***

Reborn

"South Border, because they died and they were reborn—and during their second 'life,' they developed their potential to the utmost. They sing love songs that aren't corny, that have a great impact on Filipinos.

"I once read an interview with the band's lead vocalist, and he's very humble. His voice is very versatile, *malawak ang* range. Another thing that's great about this band is that they keep things simple—their lifestyle, the way they appear in public, etc. It differentiates them from other local bands like Salbakuta that are 'extremely trendy,' in an extremely negative way. So their death wasn't really a death."—***Maria Lo, Cebu City.***

Everyday stuff

"Wolfgang. They make good songs—good lyrics. And the band has strong vocals. Their songs have meaning even though what they're singing about is only everyday stuff.

"Their songs have many layers, so they're deep and can have many meanings. Their music is real rock. They sound different because what they do is really what rock music is."—***Tiger Angeles, Cainta, Rizal.***

"Eraserheads. Because they sound very Filipino in the real sense, in the everyday, today sense. They sing about things that most people can understand and relate to, especially the younger generation.

"Their songs are very tuneful, very easy to sing along with. And I think their lyrics are intelligent. *Pinag-iisipan.*

"They sing about things that they know, things that they've experienced, so they sound sincere. Sometimes they can be wacky, but they're never corny, and they're never conventional."—***Jess Moscoso, Iligan City.***

SIDE A. Distinctive sound.

PAROKYA NI EDGAR. No pretensions.

Universal releases music and prayer album

By Remy M. Umerez

ALVAREZ. Moving rendition.

IN celebration of the 4th World Meeting of Families on January 2003 and for the restoration of families, Bella Tan is releasing a music and prayer album titled "The Power of Your Love" (Only Selfless Love). The unique package is conceived and produced by Jeanne Young, with Ito Rapadas as associate producer.

Comfort and hope

In her producer's note, Jeanne writes: "We pray that you find much comfort and hope in the music and prayers in this album. The real producer is the Holy Spirit. He would like to speak to your heart, renew your mind and dig deep into your soul, that you may receive the healing touch of God."

Gino Padilla sings the title track, which lifts the album's mood to inspirational high.

A fitting tribute to the Blessed Virgin Mary is Carol Banawa's "Mariang Ina Ko." Arnee Hidalgo renders her soulful version of "Tanging Yaman."

Isay Alvarez and her daughter Didang give a moving rendition of "Warrior Is a Child," a highlight in this music and prayer package.

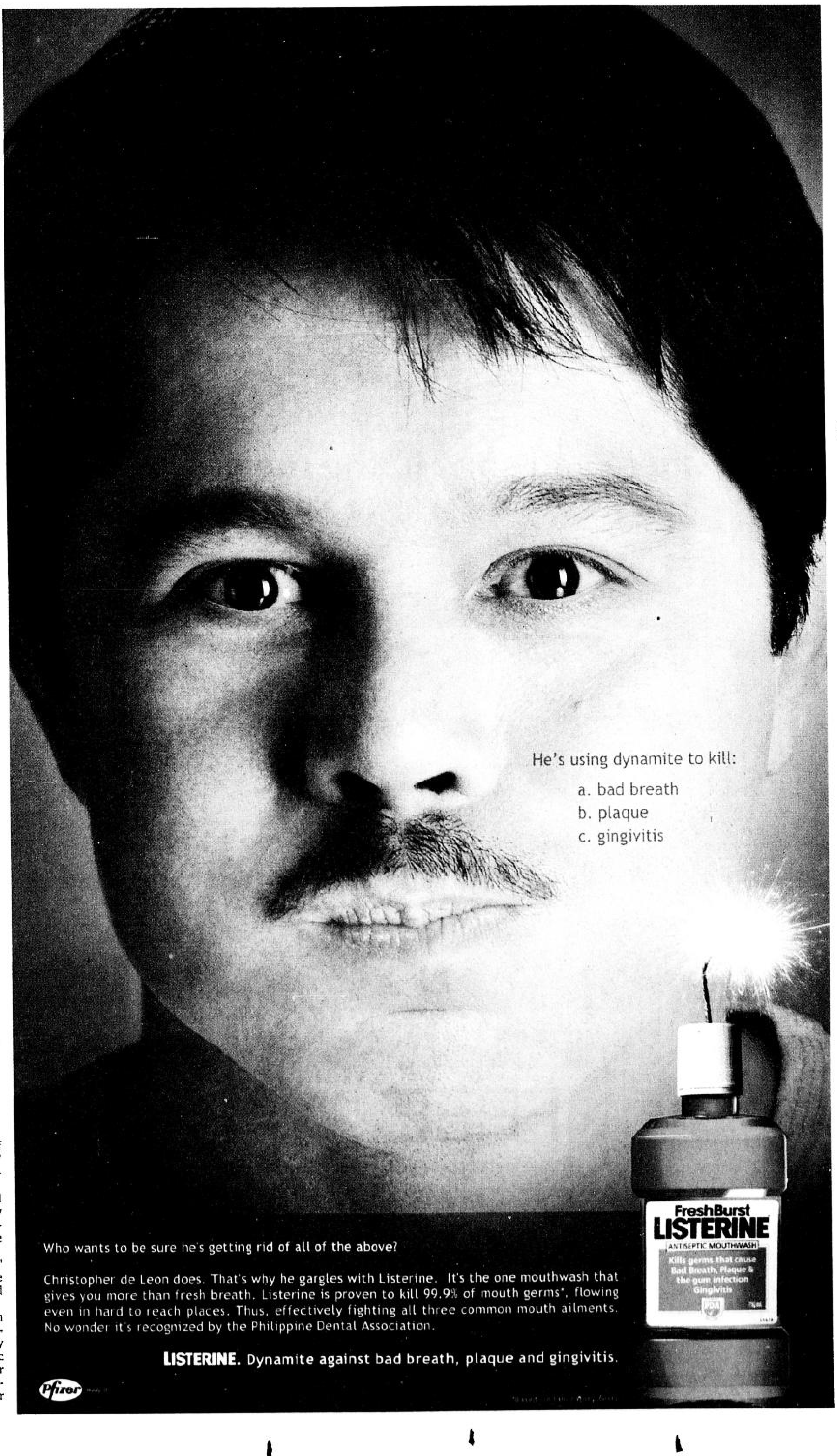
Surprise number

A surprise number is the first recording of Mikee Cojuangco, "Please Know My Child." She is supported by her son, Robbie Jaworski.

Another inspirational gem is the powerful rendition of "Papa Can You Hear Me" by Pinky Marquez. Another guest artist is Jolina Magdangal, whose hopes for peace and love are expressed in "Sana."

Jeanne Young's rendition of "Surrender" and "I Will Be Here" vivifies her love for the Lord, and her version is full of sincerity and concern.

The selections are interspersed with prayers such as "Jesus, Yourself and Your Family" by Fr. Jerry Orbos, "Interfaith Prayers" by Prof. Taba M. Basman (Philippine Islamic Council Secretary General), a Hindu prayer by Yogita Sharma, and "About Being a Missionary" by Bro. Tony Meloto of Couples for Christ.



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Choice films on TV next month

By Nestor U. Torre

THE HBO film channel will screen some choice films next month. Watch out for—

Celebrity cop

"15 Minutes" with Robert De Niro and Edward Burns. Burns plays an arson investigator who tries to crack a double murder case involving a couple of European criminals. Though he's got a celebrity cop (De Niro) helping him, they're in for a surprise when they realize that the criminals are videotaping their crimes to sell to a sleazy journalist. Showing on Oct. 3, Thursday at 9 p.m.

"Baby Geniuses" with Kathleen Turner and Christopher Lloyd. The two leads are scientists who work at Babyco, a leading manufacturer of products for infants, and they turn out to have a secret mission: to crack the code they think is hidden in the baby talk of two-year-olds. Hidden in their tattle are answers to some of the most perplexing questions.

Unfortunately, things don't go as planned. The smartest kid escapes from the lab to unite with tykes in the outside world. The baby brigade then tries to free the other kids inside the lab. Oct. 5, Saturday 10 a.m.

Pet owners

"Best in Show" with Michael Hitchcock and Parker Posey. A comedy about pet owners who are obsessed about winning a dog competition. The film follows a number of dog owners as they get their pets ready to compete in an important dog show.

The twist is that winning the top prize is seen as a victory not for the dog, but for its manipulative and overly determined owner. Oct. 8, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.

"HBO Original Movie: Boycott." This award-winning HBO production is based on the 13-month boycott of the use of bus services by black people in Montgomery, Alabama. Oct. 15, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.

"Cotton Mary" with Greta Scacchi. Mary is an Anglo-Indian woman who is shunned by both sides, until she saves the life of an English infant, whose mother is unable to breastfeed him. Little does she know that Mary has taken the baby to her crippled sister, Blossom, who has been breastfeeding the infant. Oct. 7, Monday, 10 a.m.

Two teenagers

"Dick" with Kirsten Dunst and Michelle Williams. The film follows the adventures of two teenagers who are employed by President Richard Nixon as dog walkers after they accidentally stumble onto a room packed with presidential secrets. Suddenly, the girls are swept up in the intrigue over the world's most infamous break-in—the Watergate scandal. Oct. 6, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

"Final Destination" with Devon Sawa. A field trip to France turns into a death sentence for a group of school kids when their plane crashes seconds after take-off. —But not before one of them (Sawa) has a premonition and gets off before the crash, along with some other students. This begins a series of horrifying deaths as the survivors discover that death isn't through with them yet. Oct. 4, Friday, 9 p.m.

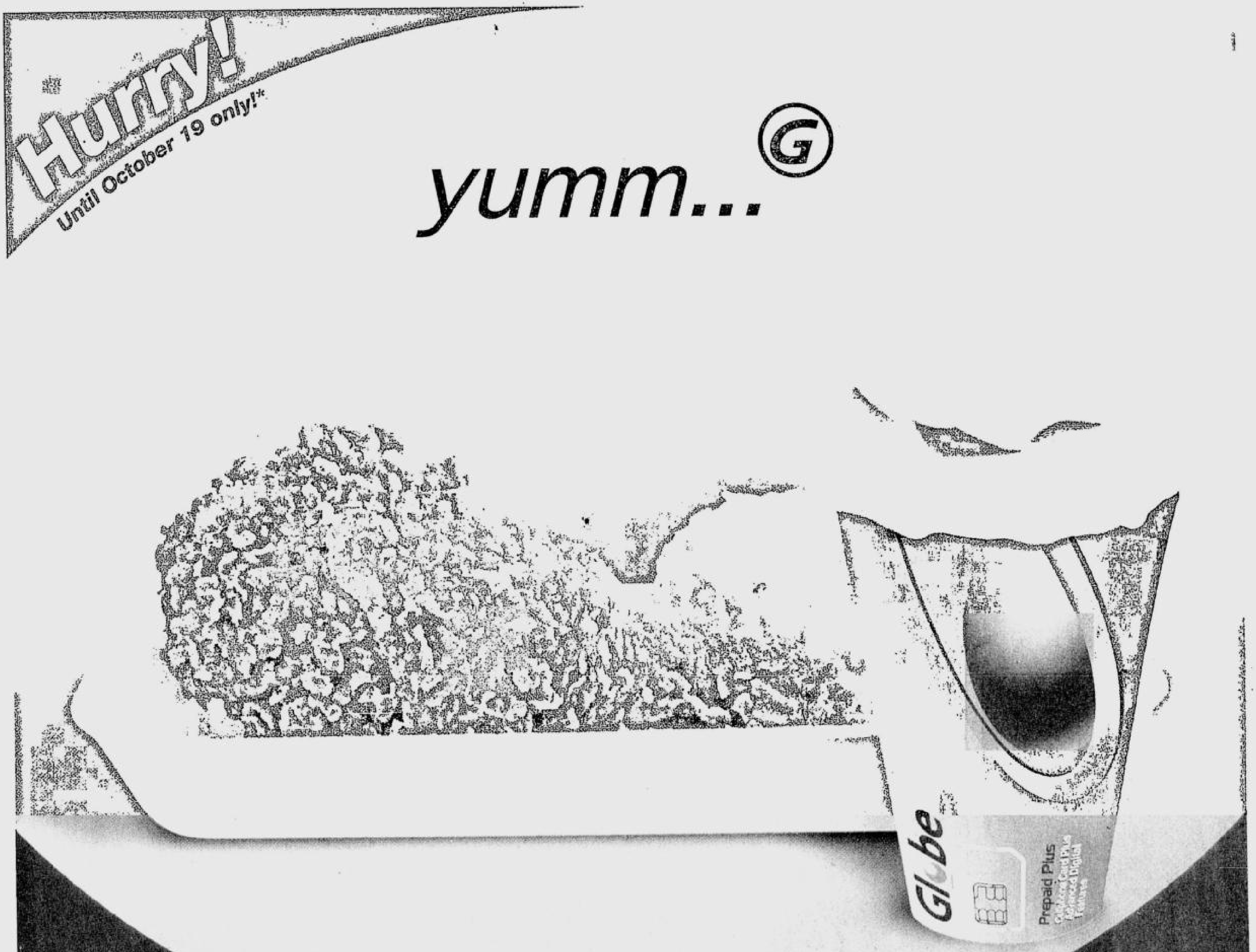
"FINDING FORRESTER." Sean Connery (right) plays a famous but reclusive author.

Revered writer

"Finding Forrester" with Sean Connery and Rob Brown. A Pulitzer Prize-winning writer disappears and is rediscovered by a punk who wants to be a writer. Forrester guides the boy through some tough times, and the boy helps the revered writer get back into the vibrant present. Oct. 26, Saturday, 9 p.m.

"Ghost" with Patrick Swayze, Demi Moore and Whoopi Goldberg. A hit romantic thriller about love after death. Nominated for four Oscars, this film won a Best Supporting Actress award

PROMISING/ F2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Draw that Villain!

Kids get creative in a Disney villain-making drawing contest

By Eline Santos

WHAT would a superhero be without a super villain?

Disney invited Manila kids to create their own super villains who might someday face off against "Teamo Supremo" heroes Rope Girl, Captain Crandall and Skate Lad. "Teamo Supremo" is a Disney cartoon about a group sworn to protect their homes from the forces of evil...and still have time to finish their homework.

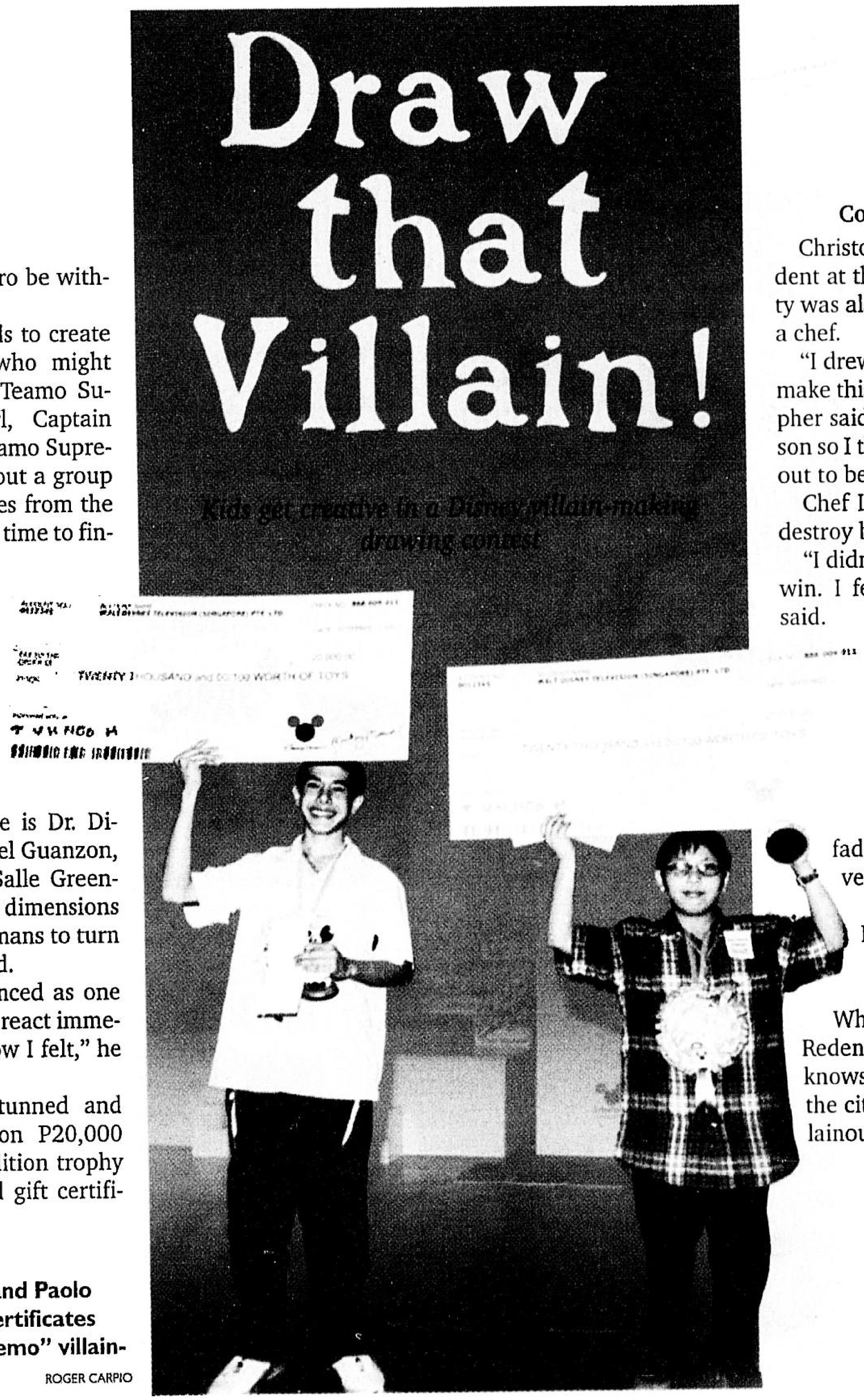
There were so many imaginative entries but only two could win as the meanest, most wicked villains of them all: Dr. Dimension and Chef Le Cook.

Demented D

"My super villain's name is Dr. Dimension," said Paolo Manuel Guanzon, a Grade 4 student at La Salle Greenhills. "Dr. D travels to other dimensions and steals the minds of humans to turn them into zombies," he said.

When Paolo was announced as one of the winners, he couldn't react immediately, "I can't describe how I felt," he said.

Well, you would be stunned and speechless too if you won P20,000 worth of toys, a special edition trophy from Disney Channel, and gift certificates!


TWENTY THOUSAND and 00/100 WORTH OF TOYS

BIG PRIZE. Christopher and Paolo show off their giant gift certificates for winning "Teamo Supremo" villain-drawing contest. ROGER CARPIO

Cooking Up Catastrophe

Christopher Aronson, a Grade 7 student at the Ateneo de Manila University was also a winner. Christopher drew a chef.

"I drew him because I didn't want to make this 'unique' evil villain," Christopher said. "I just wanted a normal person so I thought of a chef. And it turned out to be ok."

Chef Le Cook cooks dishes that can destroy buildings and scare people."

"I didn't expect to win but I hoped to win. I feel very proud of myself," he said.

Villain Ville

Here's what the other contestants came up with. Nine-year-old Julian Ray Bagatsing created Mr. Giggly, a clown who went a little looney after his fame faded. He has hypnotic eyes and a very evil laugh.

Natalie Louise Viernes created Honey the Heartbreaker and Reden Gapit thought of Flower Pot Girl.

Why is Flower Pot Girl a villain? Reden isn't really sure yet. He just knows she leaves flower pots all over the city. Awww! How can that be villainous?

Draw/ p. 4

Junior Inquirer

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2002 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 6, NUMBER 51

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

HIV-Positive Muppet
Story: Monica's Secret
Uncle Clown Pa
The Lunch Box Pa

Draw that Villain!

Kids get creative in a Disney villain-making drawing contest

By Eline Santos

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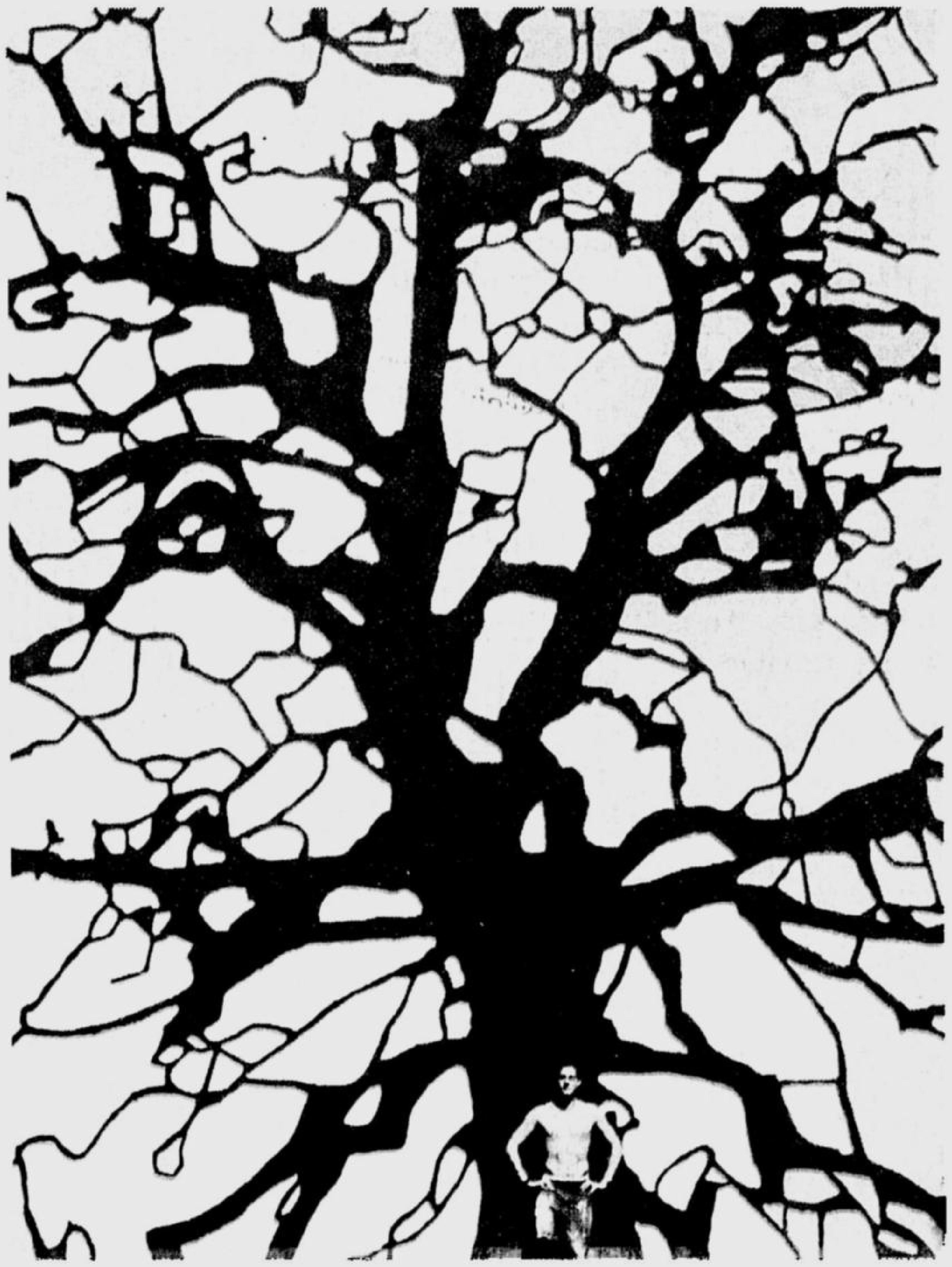


Tree of Paint

CONTEMPORARY British artist Adam Ball poses for photographers in front of his painting "The Tree" in central London. The painting measures 9.75 meters high by 6.7 meters wide and took the artist two months to complete using 26 gallons of paint. *Reuters*

World Scope

London, England
Short Gap, West Virginia
Bombay, India
Cape Town, South Africa

HIV-Positive muppet debuts on Sesame Street

SOUTH African Education Minister Kader Asmal hugs Kami, a fluffy 5-year-old orphan muppet "living with HIV," at her public debut at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town. Kami, whose name is derived from the Tswana word for "acceptance," will appear in the second season of South Africa's version of Sesame Street. "Takalani Sesame" is a programme targeted at young children and designed to help them prepare for school. *AFP*

Messenger Satellite

FRENCH artist Jean-Marc Philippe of KEO Space Satellite holds a model of their satellite, during a media briefing in Bombay, India. The Satellite, which will be launched next year, will carry messages, an astronomical clock and a diamond filled with samples of air, water, soil and human blood. The organization says the satellite will return to earth after 50,000 years. *AP*

The Mailman's a Good Samaritan

MAIL carrier Paul Wagoner, of Short Gap, West Virginia, shown in this recent photo, donated a kidney to one of the customers on his rural route in Western Maryland. He has been selected as Hero of the Year by the National Association of Letter Carriers. The successful transplant was performed last year at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore. *AP*

OUT THERE

By Christine A. Paita

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Read This!

FOR YOUR PETS. October 5 is a special day for your cats, dogs, and other pets because the world is celebrating **World Animal Day.** Aso, Pusa Atbp. animal shelter and veterinary services will offer free spaying and neutering, anti-rabies vaccination and deworming, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. So bring your pets! Aso, Pusa Atbp. is located at No. 1 P. Guevarra St., San Juan, Metro Manila. Call 726-9139 or 725-9601.

Workshops

FACE PAINT. Want to be a tiger, a clown or vampire? Learn how to face paint! Come to Young Minds at the 2nd Level, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City on Sept. 29, Sunday from 1-4 p.m.

DANCE AWAY! Dansa Studio is now offering dance classes for kids. Classes include ballet, jazz and streetdance. Call 436-6175 or text 0917-9868822 or 0919-2597323 for more info. Dansa is located at the 4th Floor, MANNA II Bldg., 33 V. Luna Ave., Brgy. Pinyahan, Quezon City.

ACT with Trumpets Playshop.

THEATER KIDS. Trumpets announces the opening of **Playshop 2002**'s October to December classes for kids, teens, and adults. Check out the following: Music and Movement for Pre-School, Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon; Children's Musical Theater, Saturdays, 1-3 p.m.; Streetdancing for Kids and Teens, Saturdays, 4-6 p.m.; Musical Theater for Teens and Adults, Tuesdays and Fridays, 7-9 p.m.; and Jazz and Individual Voice Lessons, by schedule. Saturday classes will start on Oct. 5, weekday classes on Nov. 4, and voice classes on Sept. 30. For inquiries, call Trumpets Playshop at 636-2842 or 633-5010, or visit playshop_admin@pacific.net.ph or www.trumpetsinc.com. The Trumpets office is located at the 6th Level, Carpark, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City.

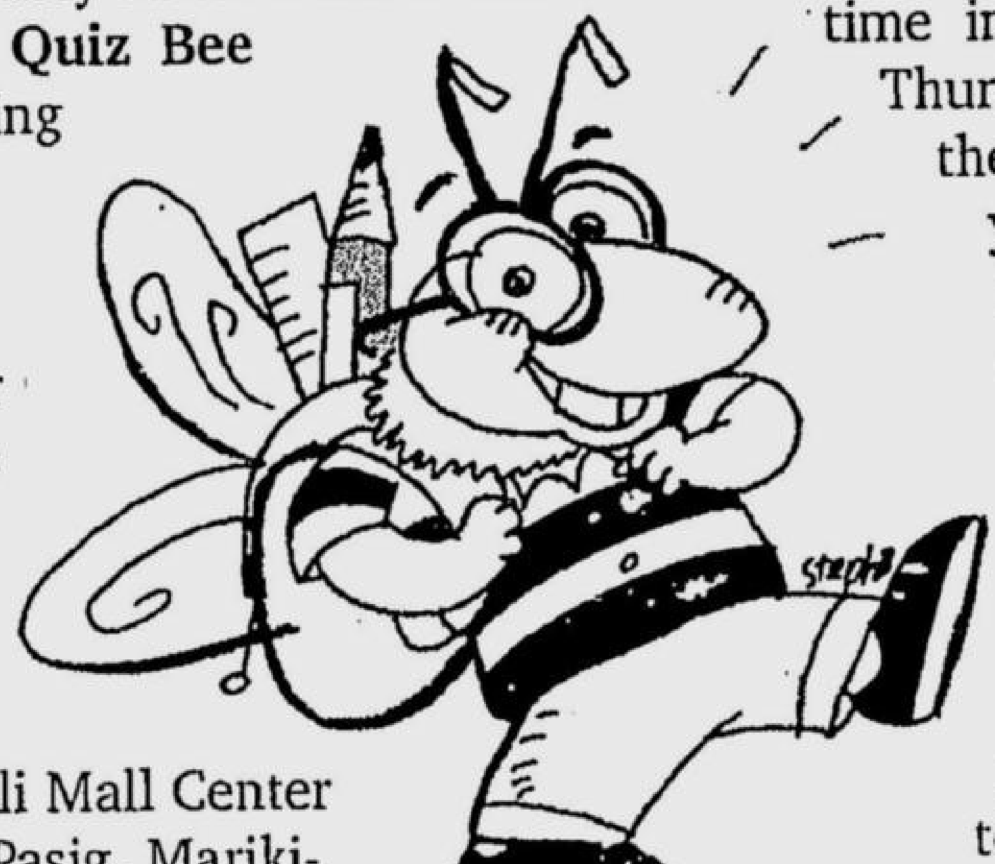
JOLLIBEE FUN. Learn arts and crafts, dancing, and singing in the Jollibee Kids Workshops. Check out the following activities for kids ages 12 and below:

- Sept. 28—Acting and Jazz Dancing, Jollibee Kalookan-LRT; Jollibee Ceramic Painting, Jollibee Grand Central; Friendship Band Craft, Jollibee Sta. Lucia Phase 1; Character Picture Frame Craft, Jollibee Sta. Lucia East Grandmall
- Oct. 5—Friendship Braid Craft, Jollibee Kalookan-LRT; Animal Hand Puppet Making, Jollibee Grand Central; Juggler Mobile Craft, Jollibee Sta. Lucia East Grandmall

Join JKW Club and you will receive a free monthly issue of the JKW Digest. For more info, please call 363-4690 or 363-7659 and look for Ghem, Ana or Joy; or email eserrano@info.com.ph.

Contests

QUIZ BEE. Watch elementary, high school and college students as they battle it out in the **23rd National Super Quiz Bee Championships**, ongoing every Saturday in different venues in Metro Manila until Dec. 7, 2002. Cheer for your school reps during the following quiz bee events: Division of Quezon City and Division of Makati City on Oct. 5 at the Ali Mall Center in Cubao; Division of Pasig, Marikina, San Juan and Division of Mandaluyong City on Oct. 19 at Robinsons Galleria; Division of Caloocan City and Division of Valenzuela, Malabon and Navotas on Oct. 25 at SM City Edsa; and Regional Finals on Nov. 8 at Robinsons Place, Manila. Admission is free. For more info call 712-0682 or 410-1285, email quizbee@edsamail.com.ph, or log on to www.quizbee.com.



SCI-ARTISTS. The Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology is inviting kids ages 10-13 to join its Sci-Artists' Competition with the theme **"Batang Agham sa Bagong Milenyo."** Deadline for submission of entries is on January 26, 2003. For details, contact the National Secretariat c/o Sionie and Maureen at 536-3092, telefax 525-8418, or by email at sci-art@philonline.com.

FEROCIOUS felines on NGC.

Cable Picks

BIG CATS ON NGC. Learn more about ferocious felines in **"Nat Geo Max,"** on National Geographic Channel in October. On Oct. 1, Tuesday at 9 p.m., follow several groups of cheetahs and learn how they survive in the African wilderness. Lions are often called "king of the beasts," but did you know that the female of this species also play an important role? Find out in **"Lions"** on Wednesday, Oct. 2 at 9 p.m. It's all about the Siberian tigers this time in **"Tigers of the Snow"** on Thursday, Oct. 3 at 9 p.m. Finally, the big cats of the jungle show you how they survive a changing world by using their power and speed in **"The Killer Cats"** on Oct. 4 at 9 p.m.

BANANAS IN PYJAMAS. Twin bananas B1 and B2 are back! Sing and dance once more with the "Bananas in Pyjamas" every morning, with teddy bear friends Amy, Lulu, and Morgan, and Rat in the Hat. It's double the fun when the gang meets its new neighbors—Dolly the Sheep, Pedro the Pig, Camembert the Cow, and Gregory and Peck the Chickens. "Bananas in Pyjamas" will be aired weekdays at 9:30 a.m. on ABS-CBN Channel 2 starting on Sept. 30.

Draw That Villain!

(from page 1)

KSP Kids

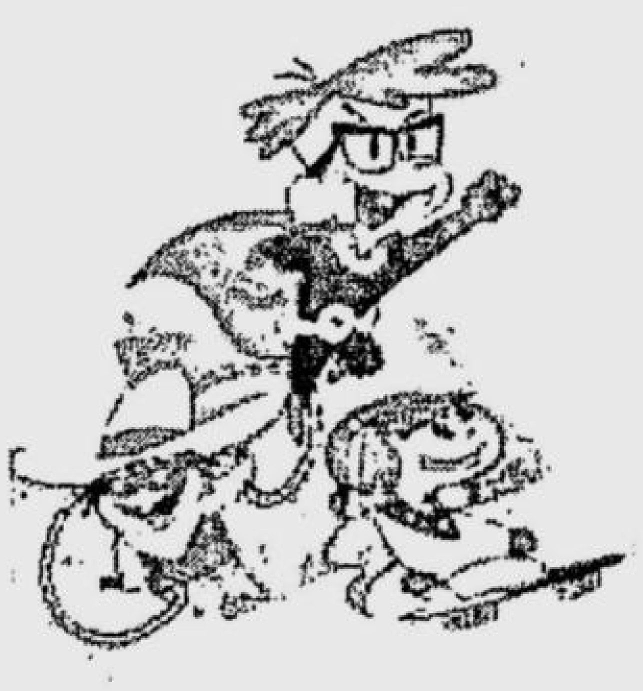
There were also teenage bad guys such as Disco Dude by Barbie Rayel and Rappin' Rodg by Regina Estrada.

"Teamo Supremo is really for kids but I also wanted something for teenagers," says Regina, a Grade 6 student at Assumption College.

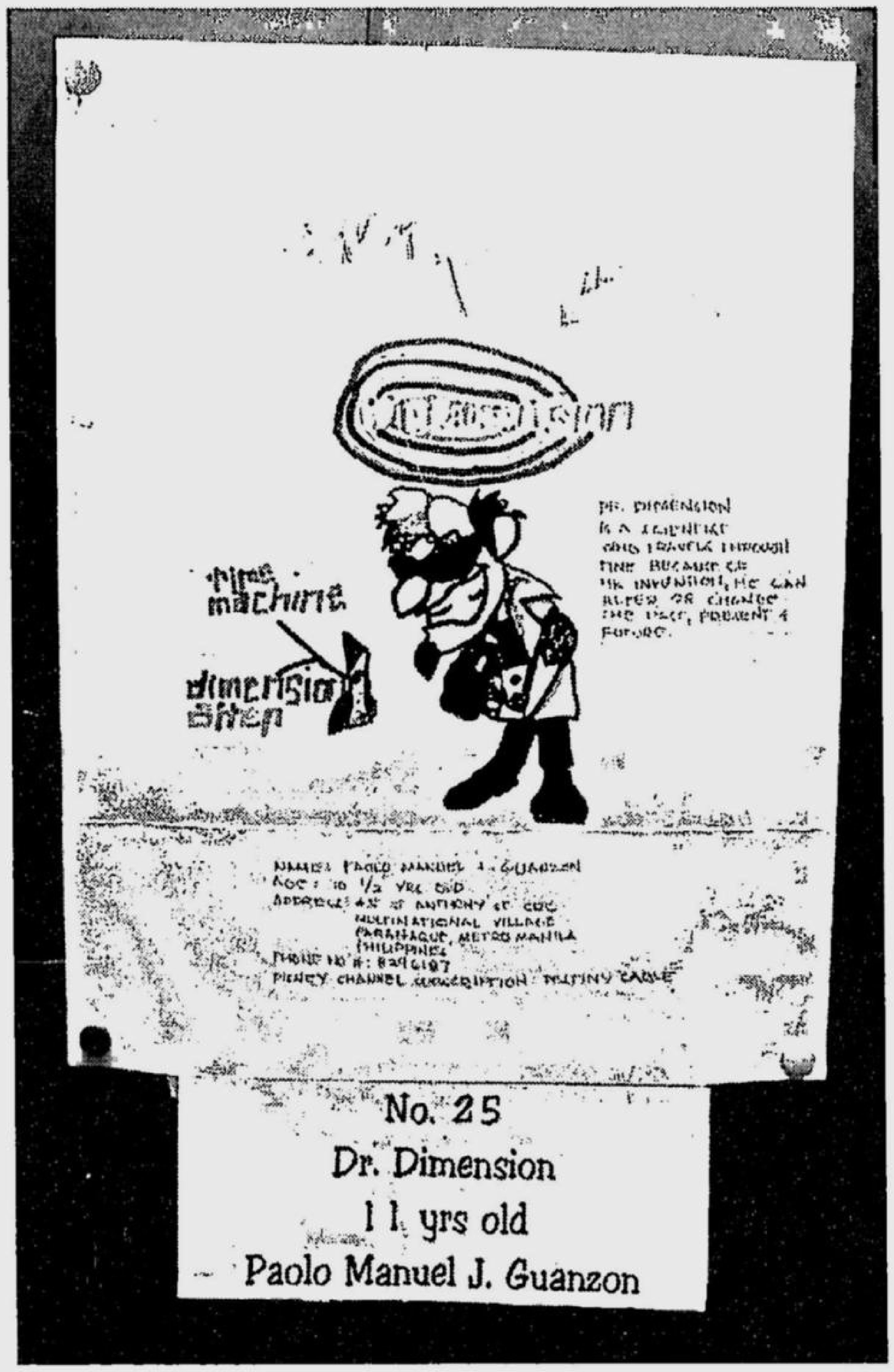
Rappin' Rodg likes to cause trouble because no one pays him any attention. On the other hand, Disco Dude is a really colorful guy who likes the night life. "So he disturbs people and stuff," says Barbie, 13, from St. Paul College.

A list of super villains won't be complete without a mad scientist or two. Dr. Seroid is a scientist who "invents evil robots," says Mike Alvin Torres of UE Fugoso Memorial School.

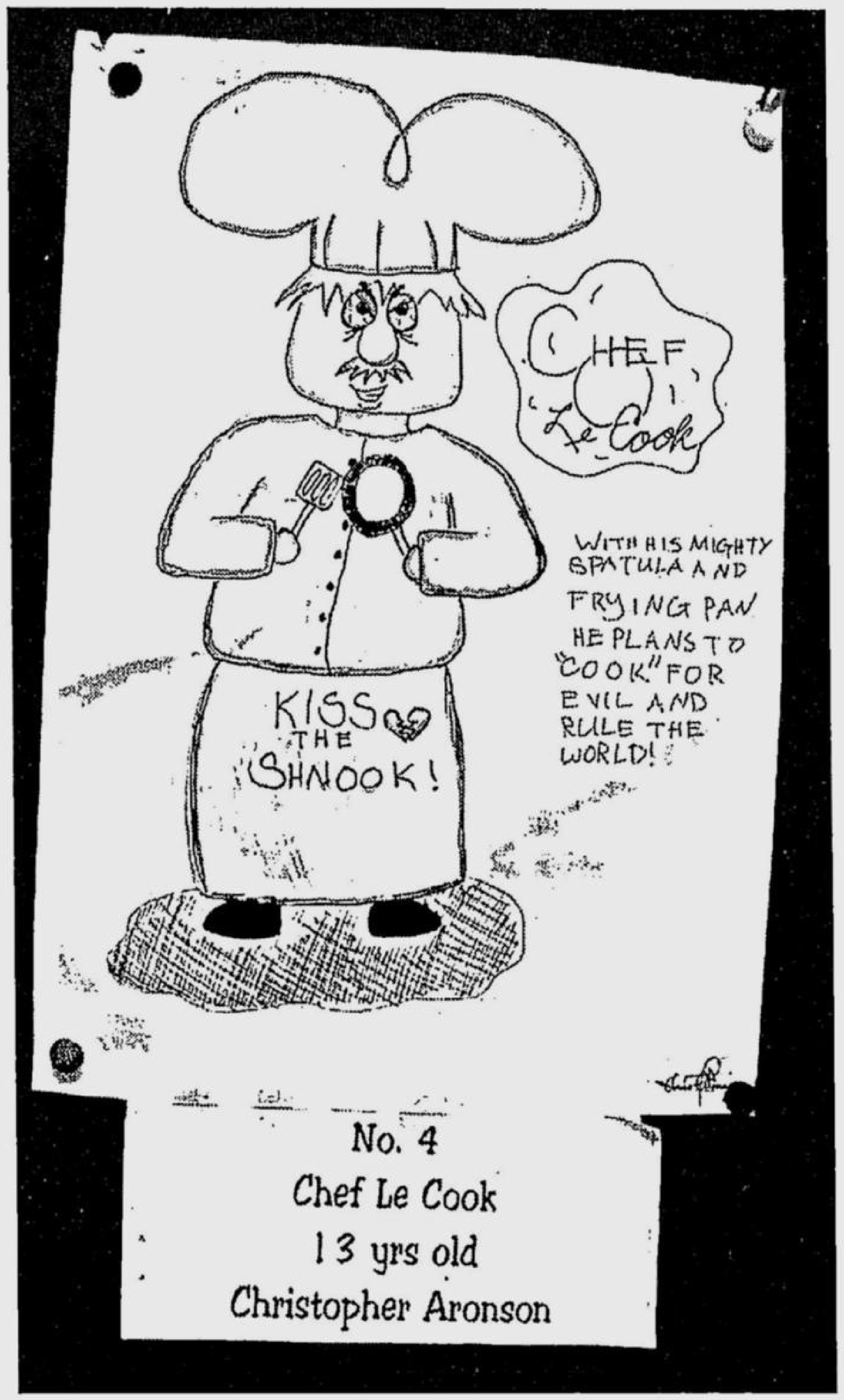
Dr. Do In is a "very evil scientist" who "uses his giant injection and giant hammer," says Paolo Bitaya, a Grade 6 student at International School.



TEAMO SUPREMO. Capt. Crandall, Rope Girl and Skate Lad.



CREEPY. Paolo's Dr. Dimension turns everyone he meets into zombies. ROGER CARPIO


CHEF Le Cook
WITH HIS MIGHTY SPATULA AND FRYING PAN HE PLANS TO "COOK" FOR EVIL AND RULE THE WORLD!
KISS THE SHNOOK!
No. 4
Chef Le Cook
13 yrs old
Christopher Aronson

CROOKED COOK. Christopher's Chef Le Cook prepares explosive and destructive dishes. ROGER CARPIO.

Bunch of Bad Guys...and Gals

Thieving villains include Octoricas by John Christian San Pedro and Selina Felina by Gerald Aubrey Pantua. A seventh grader at Claret, John was watching the Little Mermaid when he thought of Octoricas. "She loves to steal everything from other people. She has many tentacles and she has two heads."

Selina Felina is a cat burglar. "She steals furs. She steals money in banks," says Gerald, a Grade 5 student at Liceo San Pedro.

"Nightmare Witch creates people's nightmares. And she can read you like an open book," says Roxanne Navarro, Grade 5 student from Arclight School, Las Piñas.

Flame Throwers & Ninjas

Aesha Eleyna Villanueva, a Grade 7 student of Assumption College, created Detecto and Rocko. "Detecto is like a super villain spy and he spies for the other super villains, and Rocko is his assistant who only follows his command."

"Black Warrior has a flame thrower and shoots rockets," says 8-year-old Myles Gabriel Reyes from Paco Catholic School. "He has laser beams. He can fly."

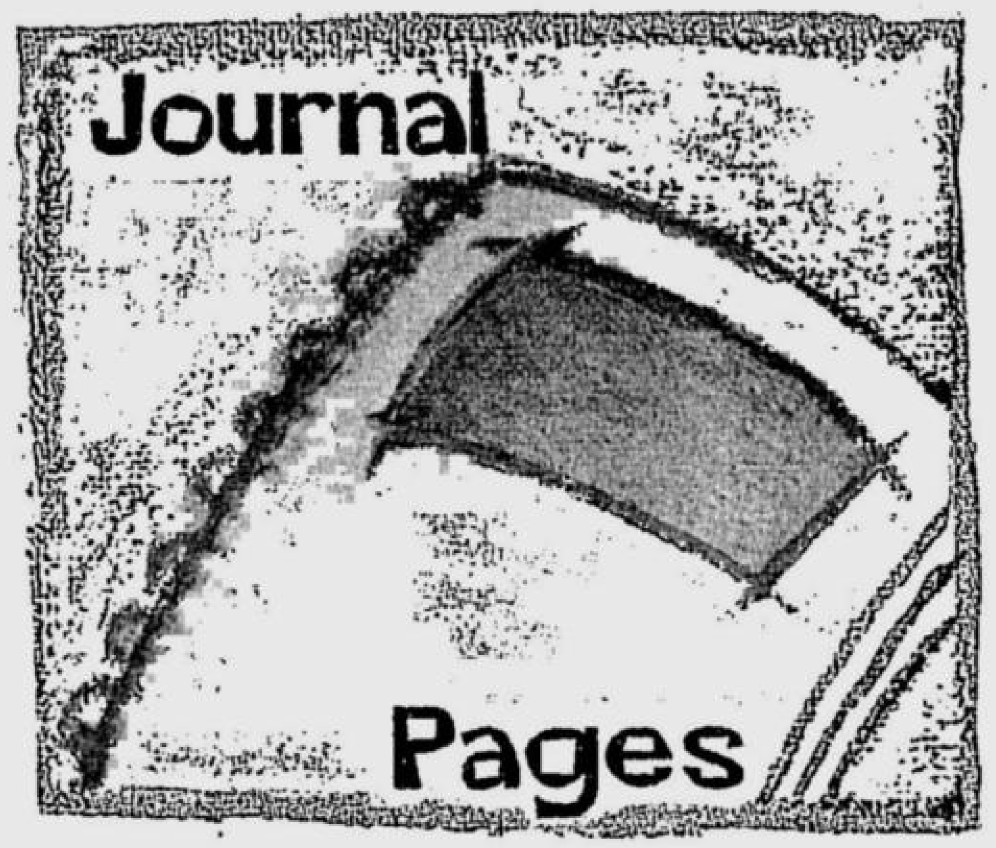
Other power villains that made it into the final 30 were Sharp by Marc Claro, Boomerang by Jesse Castillo, Deadly Ninja by Rodel David Gonzales, Pryo Boy by Fernando Maglutac and Afroming by Servando Perarillo.

Animation Workshop

Kids at the awarding ceremony were treated to an animation workshop with Joe Horne, senior animator from Disney and director of "Teamo Supremo." He demonstrated how Skate Lad was animated.

Afterwards, the kids together with Joe, came up with a villain character named Clownbo. He's an evil clown with a Viking horn, a wooden leg, and a pink camouflage costume. His battle cry was "Jologs!"

Whew! With all these villains running around shouting "Cha-ring!" "Bongga!" and "Dead-ma!," Teamo Supremo will have to work harder to keep the world a safe place. Buh-za! Wuh-pa! Chi-ka!



Aussie Animal Planet

By RG Macalinao
PAREF Southridge School
Muntinlupa City

DURING my 2002 summer vacation in Australia, I was able to go to Featherdale Zoo in Sydney and learn about the wide variety of Australian animals. I learned that poisonous snakes could actually be found there, especially in the Outback. I got the chance to see Australia in a different way through its animals. Aussies really seem to be concerned with the welfare of animals.

On a cloudy Friday morning in Sydney, Tita Joy, my mom's friend, brought my mom and me to Featherdale Zoo.

I was ready with my camera to take pictures of what I was about to see. When we entered, the first thing I saw was the different kinds of birds, bats and dogs. I was in awe at the animals I saw. I couldn't even remember the last time I had been to a zoo. A smile was glued to my face the whole time. I saw cockatoos, dingoes, peacocks and wombats.

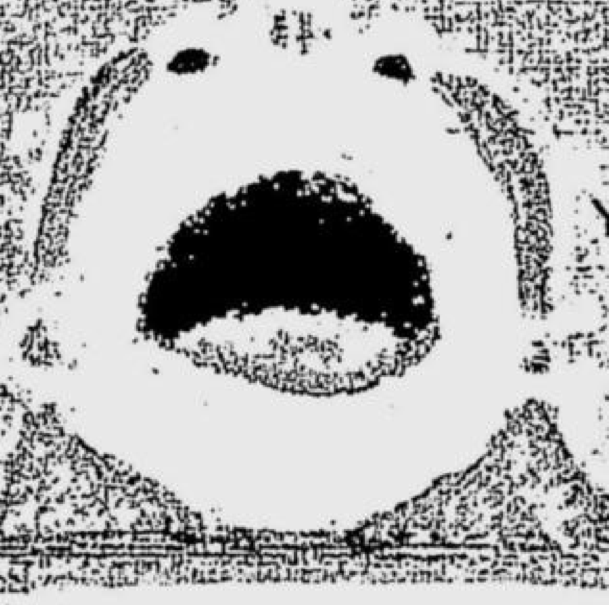
The next place we entered was an open space where kangaroos and emus were allowed to roam freely. They were all around us. I tell you, kangaroos and emus are not the most fragrant mammals.

Aussie/ p. 10

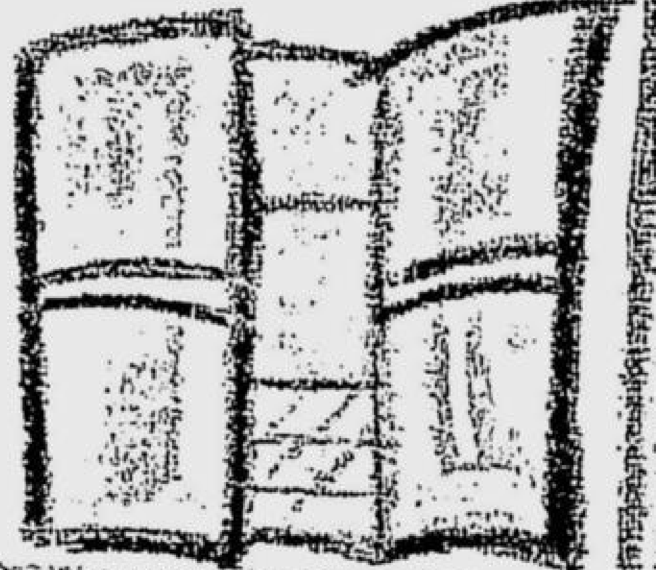
Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers



You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Hooray for Genaro!

I WOULD like to congratulate my dear teacher Mr. Genaro Gojo Cruz for winning in the prestigious Palanca Awards. Mr. Cruz has been an inspiration to us students to strive for excellence in whatever we do. He has taught us how to appreciate literature whether it is in Filipino or English.

Mr. Cruz has already given our class a reading of his work and I for one think that it is indeed a masterpiece.—**KENDRICK SY GO**, High School Sophomore, Samantabhadra Institute, Tondo, Manila

Writing Better

DEAR Editor,

I am Aurielle, a Grade 6 pupil from Sto. Niño de Novaliches School. I am the assistant editor in chief of our school paper. I want to improve my skills in writing news, poems and essays. How will I improve that?—**AURIELLE JUNINE LEE**, 12, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Dear Aurielle,

*Read, read and read as much as you can. And write a lot! —**The Editor***

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FOR or BY KIDS

Illustrations by
Stephanie Bravo

Monica

Monica's mom told her a s

By Regie C. Lualhati

CLASS
RECORD

THERE was once a little girl named Monica. She lived in a cozy little house with her Daddy and Mommy who loved her very much.

Every morning, after breakfast, Mommy and Monica would kiss Daddy goodbye as he left for work. Then, Mommy would walk her to school at the park. Monica would attend her classes while Mommy waited outside, reading a book.

One day, Daddy told Monica that Mommy was not feeling well. So Daddy drove Monica to school while Mommy stayed home.

When Monica came home from school, she heard Mommy being sick in the bathroom, the way Monica felt when she rode the ferris wheel too much. Monica felt sorry for Mommy and decided to leave her alone for a while.

FROM that day on, Daddy always took her to school. Daddy was home more often, too. He would help Mommy with the housework. He taught Monica how to set the table for dinner and let her wipe the dishes as long as she was very careful.

He and Mommy seemed to be very happy. They were smiling all the time. But Mommy slept a lot and ate a lot, too. And she was getting rather fat. She did not play with Monica as often, she easily got tired and had dark half circles under her eyes.

As the days went by, Monica became very sad. So she asked Mommy, "Mommy, do you still love me?"

Mommy hugged her and showered her with kisses. "My dear Monica, I love you very, very much!" Mommy said. "I am sorry if I do not spend as much time with you now." Then Mommy whispered to her. "I have a secret to tell you.

We are going to have
"You and Daddy an
is the best secret ever

EACH morning, as sh
their secret
come. S
his d
C
a

N

b
th

N
in t
sat
ica
cr
Mo
fus
Mommy continued, "O
grow
grow
tellin
with us soon. Do you r
you and Daddy planted l
like now?

So Monica rushed out
she got back, she said, "
plants. Daddy said that v

Mommy smiled at her
growing, too. He will b

a’s Secret

ecret. But why did everyone else seem to know about it too?

a baby!”
d I are going to have a baby! This
!”

e went to school, she thought of
She couldn’t wait for the baby to
he would take care of him, change
aper and give him milk.

ne day, after class, T eacher
sked Monica, “When is the baby
coming?”

Poor Monica! She was surprised that Teacher knew her secret. She was also hurt that
lommy told Teacher about it.

When she got home, she went straight to Mommy’s room. Mom-
my was fixing the crib for the ba-
y and she was singing a lullaby
at she used to sing to Monica
when she was small.

“Mommy, I’m so mad at you!” Monica shouted. “Why did you tell Teacher our secret? You’re so unfair!”

Monica then rushed to her room
ears. Mommy followed her and
down to explain. “My dear Mon-
, I did not tell Teacher our se-
t. She found out by herself.” But
nica covered her ears and re-
d to listen.

ur baby is
ing inside me, the way a plant
s. That’s the baby’s way of
g everybody that he will be here
member the papaya seeds that
ist week? How do the seeds look

to the garden. All excited when
Mommy, the seeds are now little
ve will have papaya trees soon.”
and said, “Your baby brother is
e here with us in a few days.”

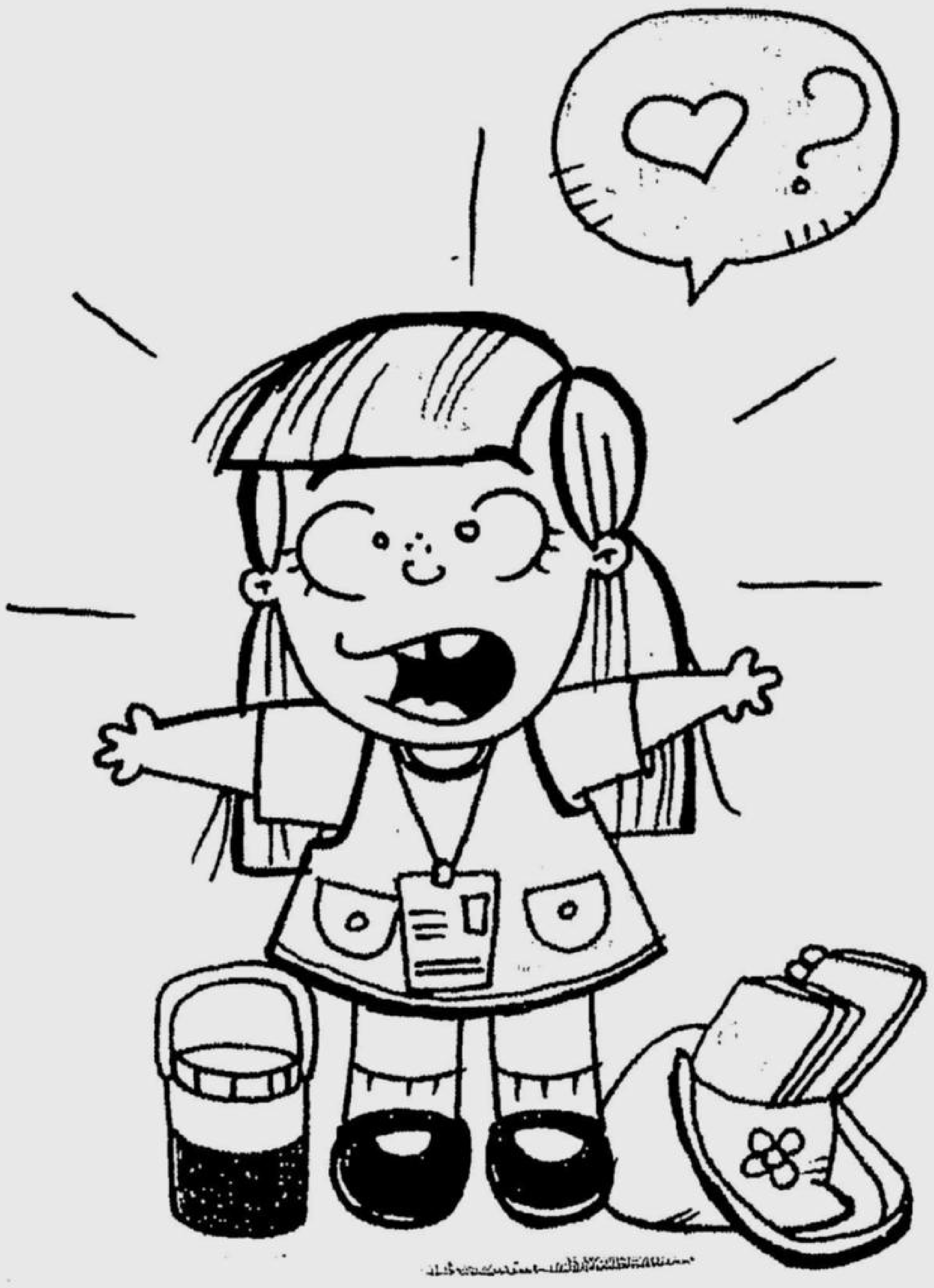
Mommy took Monica’s hand and placed it on top of her big tummy. Suddenly, the baby moved and Monica was so surprised. “I think he can’t wait to see you,” Mommy said.

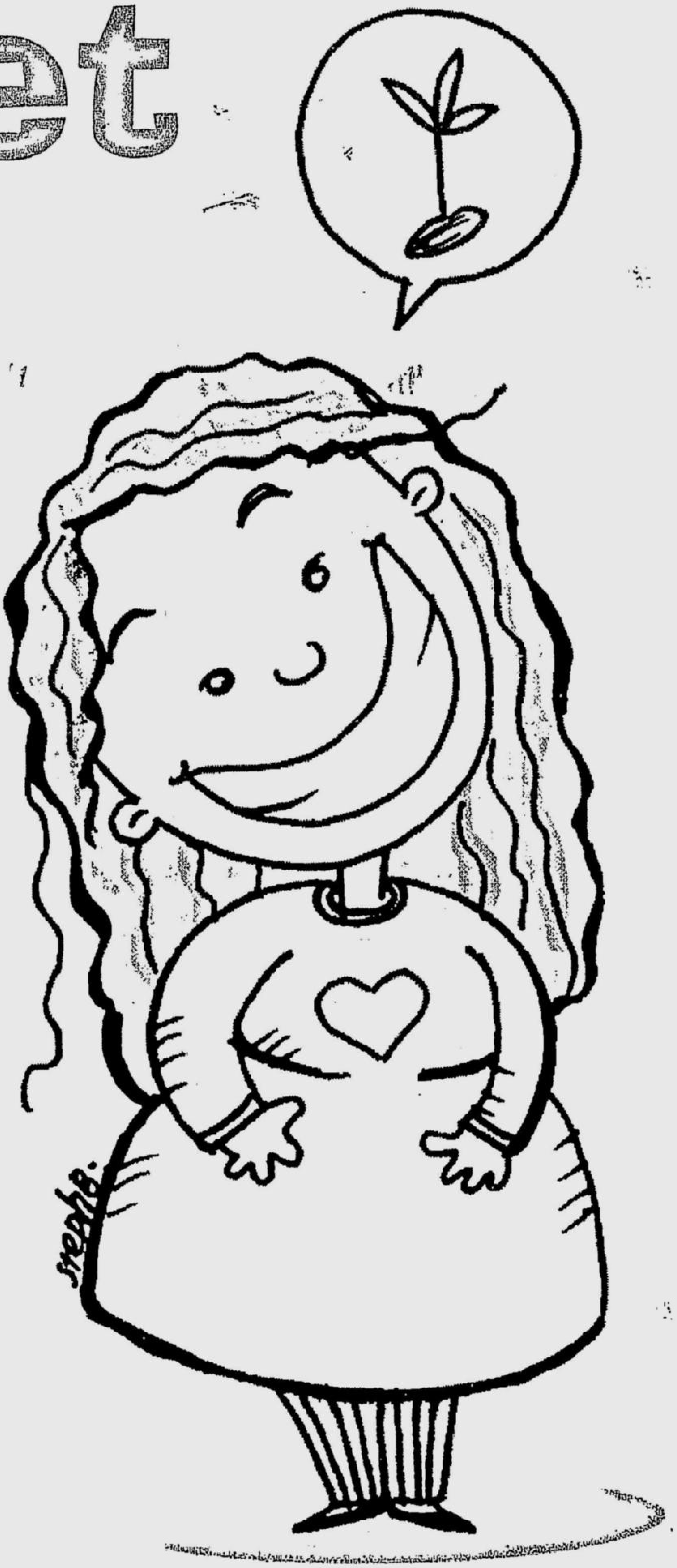
Monica smiled back at Mommy. “So that’s why you’re so, so fat. You look like you swallowed a giant watermelon. Of course, a baby brother is so much better!”

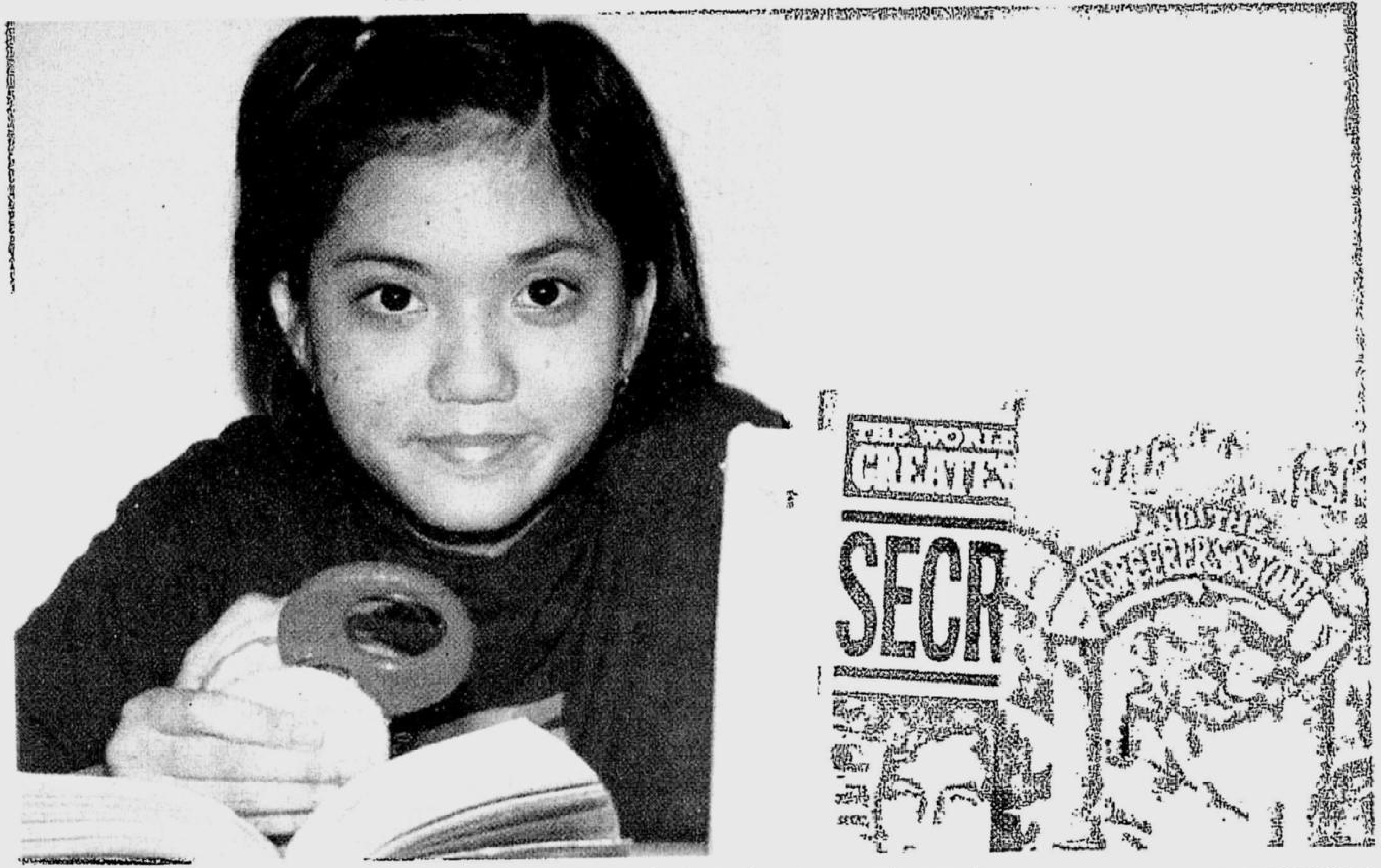
And they both laughed as Mommy hugged her.

***Regie** is a full-time mom and works part time as a freelance writer. She’s the mom in the story and Monica is her daughter. She wrote the story when Monica was 5 years old.*

***Steph** is Junior Inquirer’s staff artist.*







PRIVATE EYE. If Santina's not reading books, she's trying to read people. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Girl Detective

Santina is learning a lot from Nancy Drew, Hercule Poirot and Sherlock Holmes.

By Eline Santos

WATCH out forgers and cheaters! Kid detective Santina Lora might just be on your case.

Thirteen-year-old Santina loves a good mystery. Filling up two library borrower's cards a year, her reading list includes "The Hardy Boys", Encyclopedia Brown mysteries, "Nancy Drew Mysteries", "Sherlock Holmes," "Clue" and author Agatha Christie. And if she really likes a book, she'll save her allowance to get her own copy.

Eyes Wide Open

But Santina's not satisfied with just reading. She applies what she reads to real life.

"I observe people," she says. She shadows them, which means observing without being noticed. That's something she picked up from the Hardy Boys.

Santina and her friend Angela have compiled files on the people they shadow. Under code names like Ambo, Big Bro, Thin Guy, Jaguar, Destiny and Stream, they file away facts about the person such as birthdays, addresses, and when the person last had a haircut.

"It helps us in our understanding of other people," she says. "Why they are like that."

A Writer, Too

Santina has been keeping a journal since she was seven years old. "Every thought is valuable. I write down my feelings. Everything is worth remembering."

Her consistent writing and reading habits have already born fruit. Writing in English and Filipino, she won the on-the-spot Astro Essay Writing Contest last February sponsored by PAGASA, and the Linggo ng Wika essay writing contest at the UP Integrated School last September 2.

It doesn't take a Sherlock Holmes to guess what Santina wants to be when she grows up. Either a writer or a detective, my dear Watson!

R U 'RRIFIC?

**'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done**

**Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!**

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids 'r' 'rrific

nomination form

I nominate: ______

Age: ______

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at ______

and studies at ______

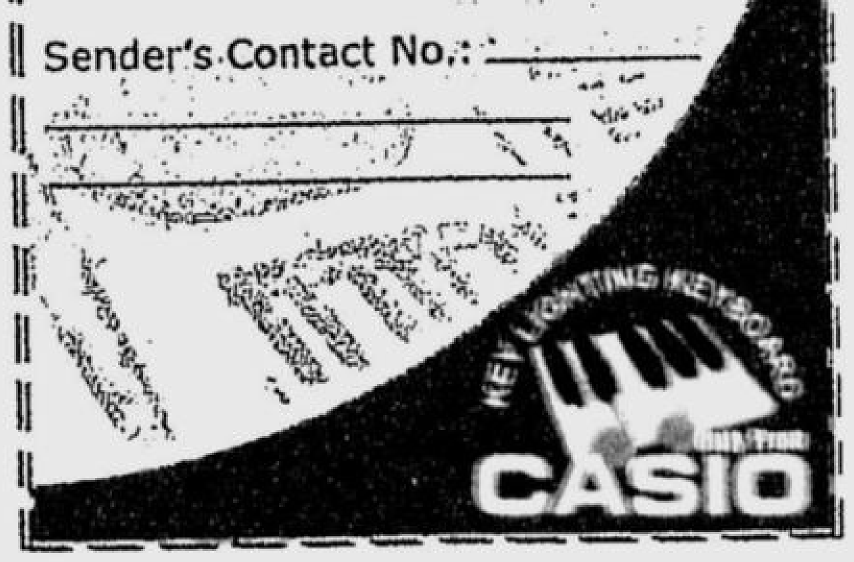
Her/his contact number is: ______

Sender's Name: ______

Sender's Age & School: ______

Sender's Address: ______

Sender's Contact No.: ______



Funny Ambition

He just wanted to be a clown.

By Eline Santos

HOW can you tell one clown from the other? "I'm the one with the heart over my mouth. It can either be blue or red, but the heart is sort of my trademark," says Jester, aka Rommel Hernandez, one of the regular clowns at Enchanted Kingdom.

He can turn you into a cat with his face paint, twist balloons into poodles or swords, juggle, and do simple magic tricks.

It's not as easy as it looks. He first started as a technician for the Boyoyong clowns. Liking the way the clowns made children laugh, he tried out for the job.

"The first time I auditioned as a clown for Boyoyong, I was rejected," Rommel says. So he tried to learn everything he could. The second time he auditioned, he got in.

You must be joking

His family didn't like it at first. "Can you do that for the rest of your life? What about when you start a family?" his older sister Imelda recalls being worried about her youngest brother at the time.

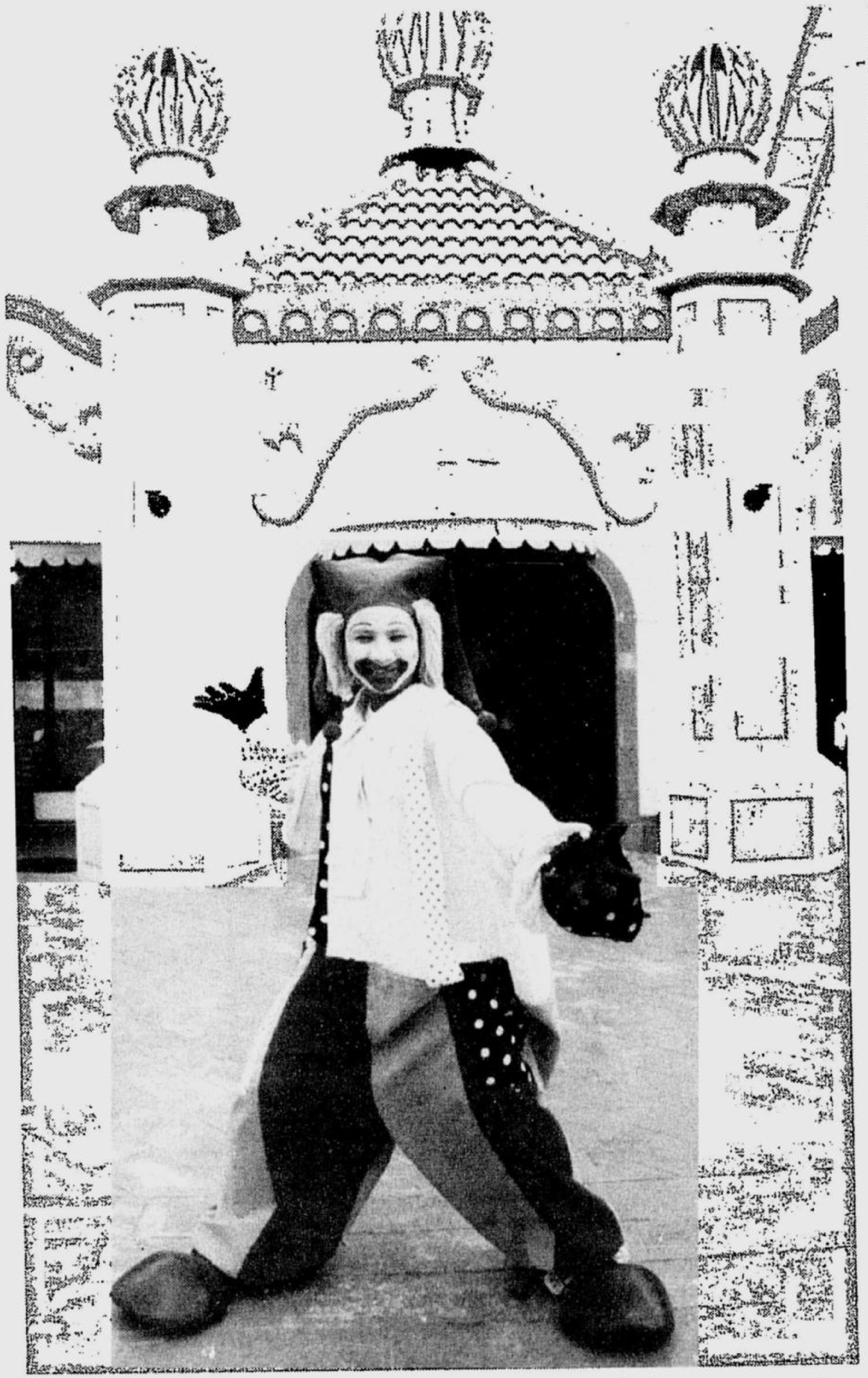
But everything turned out well. In the trio of Bobo, Yoyo and Ong Ong, Rommel took the role of the jolly Bobo. "I was chubby at the time so I fit the role better."

"My first party with Boyoyong I was really nervous," he admits. But now, he just smiles confidently and has a lot of fun. He does however have to watch out for the mischievous.

"Sometimes teenagers will take your wig," he warns.

After Boyoyong, he tried out as a technician at Enchanted Kingdom before later becoming one of the clowns. As a pioneer of the amusement park, Rommel has been greeting guests, hosting parties and making children happy for the past seven years.

"It's good to be a clown," he says. "It's heartening when parents thank you, you feel content."



TITO Romy's a favorite uncle of his nephews and niece... maybe because he clowns around on and off the job.

ROMMEL HERNANDEZ

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
Is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
In our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _______________.

He/She is _________ years old and

is my _________________.

Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:

1)____________________;
2)____________________;
3)____________________;
4)____________________;
5)____________________;

My nominee lives a__________

_ ____________________.

Give him/her a call at ________

or send him/her an e-mail at ____

____________________.

By the way, I'm ___________

___________________.

I'm__________years old.

My address is_____________

___________________.

You may call me at__________

___________________.

SEPTEMBER TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER was originally the 7th month of the Julian calendar (Julius Caesar and the Romans began the year in March), the word rooted in the Latin *septem*, "seven." How many of the dozen September events below have you read about and still remember?

1. On September 28, a Filipino president was born in 1910 and another died in 1989. Name them. (Clue: Both were bar topnotchers.)
   - o Manuel Roxas and Carlos P. Garcia
   - o Ramon Magsaysay and Elpidio Quirino
   - o Diosdado Macapagal and Ferdinand Marcos

2. What country did Germany, under Adolf Hitler, invade on September 1, 1939, a move that would trigger World War II?
   - o Poland
   - o France
   - o Austria

3. Who was introduced in "Steamboat Willie," the first sound cartoon film, which was released on September 19, 1928?
   - o Mickey Mouse
   - o Aquaman
   - o Donald Duck

4. Which Filipino struck gold in the exhibition sport of bowling on September 19, 1988 at the Seoul Olympics?
   - o Arianne Cerdeña
   - o Paeng Nepomuceno
   - o Bong Coo-Garcia

5. Which Italian poet died, age 56, on September 15, 1321, not long after finishing his masterpiece "La Divina Commedia" (The Divine Comedy), a 14,000-line work that took him 14 years to complete?
   - o Michaelangelo
   - o Virgil
   - o Dante Alighieri

6. What ship, originally commanded by Ferdinand Magellan, completed the first circumnavigation of the world on September 6, 1522?
   - o Santa Maria
   - o Victoria
   - o Trinidad

7. Which famous 27-year-old guitarist, the highest paid act at the 1979 Woodstock Festival, died from an overdose of sleeping pills in London on September 18, 1970?
   - o Jimi Hendrix
   - o Keith Moon
   - o Jim Morrison

8. Which Philippine volcano erupted on September 28, 1965, killing about 2,000 people and wiping out a dozen barrios?
   - o Taal
   - o Kanlaon
   - o Mayon

9. What US landmark turned down a visit by Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev for security reasons on September 20, 1959?
   - o Disneyland
   - o Empire State Building
   - o Grand Canyon

10. Which fellow American boxer did Gene Tunney beat to win the world heavyweight title in the so-called "Battle of the Long Count" in Chicago on September 22, 1927?
    - o Jess Willard
    - o Joe Louis
    - o Jack Dempsey

11. In what country did the world's first passenger train service take place on September 27, 1825?
    - o England
    - o Russia
    - o United States

12. On September 21, 1972 President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law, which was otherwise known as Proclamation—
    - o 1071
    - o 1081
    - o 1091

Answers:

1. Diosdado Macapagal and Ferdinand Marcos
2. Poland
3. Mickey Mouse
4. Arianne Cerdeña
5. Dante Alighieri
6. Victoria
7. Jimi Hendrix
8. Taal
9. Disneyland
10. Jack Dempsey
11. England
12. 1081

Ratings:

superbrain!
11-12

excellent!
9-10

good!
6-8

Aussie Animal Planet

(from page 5)

I also saw an albino kangaroo and its fur was as white as snow. We then left that area and we headed for the "Koala Room."

The first thing I noticed when we entered there was the smell of eucalyptus. I could see koalas hanging on eucalyptus trees. At first I thought the koalas were fake because they looked like stuffed toys and they didn't move so much. It seems koalas are lazy animals and they sleep all day.

The branches of the eucalyptus rustled as some of the koalas moved from one place to another. The animal trainer there got one of the koalas and allowed me to touch it. It was so cute and its fur was so soft that it was really like a moving teddy bear. They are such adorable creatures.

I wanted to have my very own pet koala! After seeing a few more animals here and there, we reached the exit of the zoo, we headed back to the car, and we went home.

I never expected that animals could give me such joy. I became intrigued at how they lived their lives. Who knew I had a soft spot for animals? I realized that animals, just like humans, are important to this world.

Kangaroos and koalas really represent Australia. You get to appreciate this wonderful country better after you get to encounter their animals. I'm glad I had the opportunity to learn more about the animals unique to Australia.

If you ever get the chance to visit this country, don't forget to take time off to see them. I assure you it will be time well spent.

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

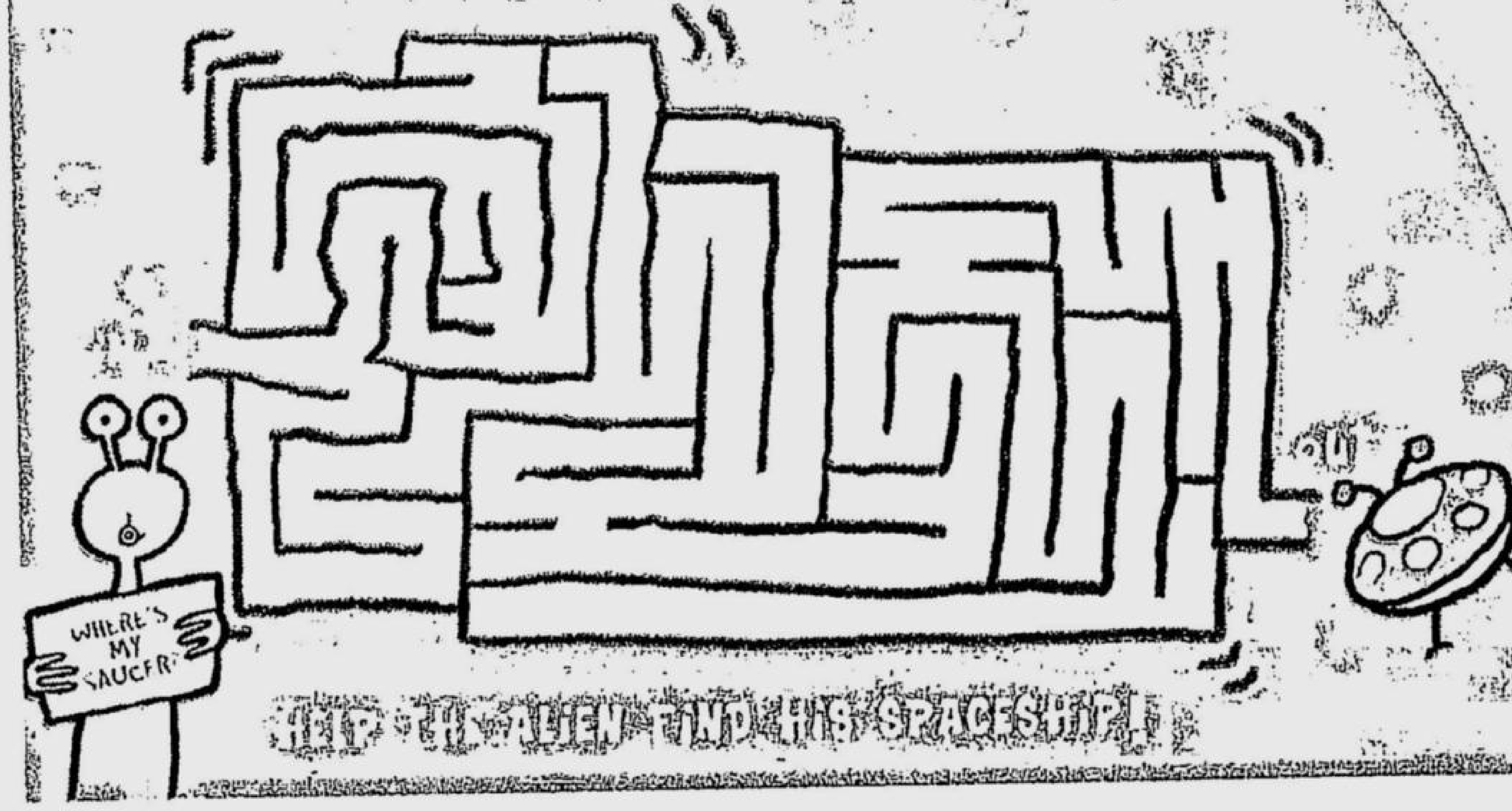
POETIC PATTY'S WISHFUL THINKING

Find out what Patty wished for by removing all the B's, U's and K's.

KUTOBMUORKRBOWK AKTU
BDUBINKNEURB KIB UWKISKH
FKORU KABU REKUALBLYK
UTABSTYK DUKISKHU

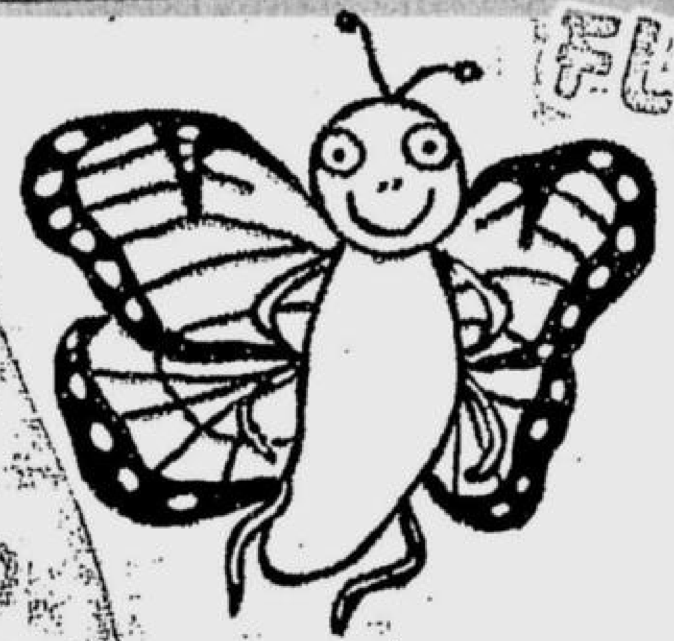
Answer: Tomorrow at dinner I wish for a really tasty dish

SPACEY MAZEY



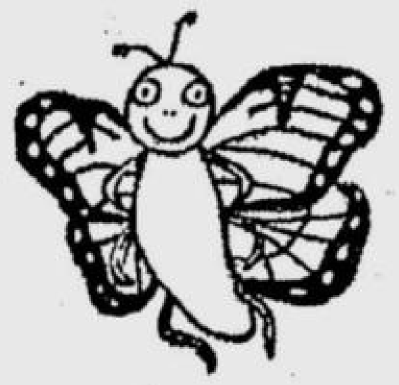
HELP THE ALIEN FIND HIS SPACESHIP!

FLY-BY-FACTS



This particular species is also called a "milkweed butterfly" because it can only eat milkweed plants during its larval stage. What butterfly is this?

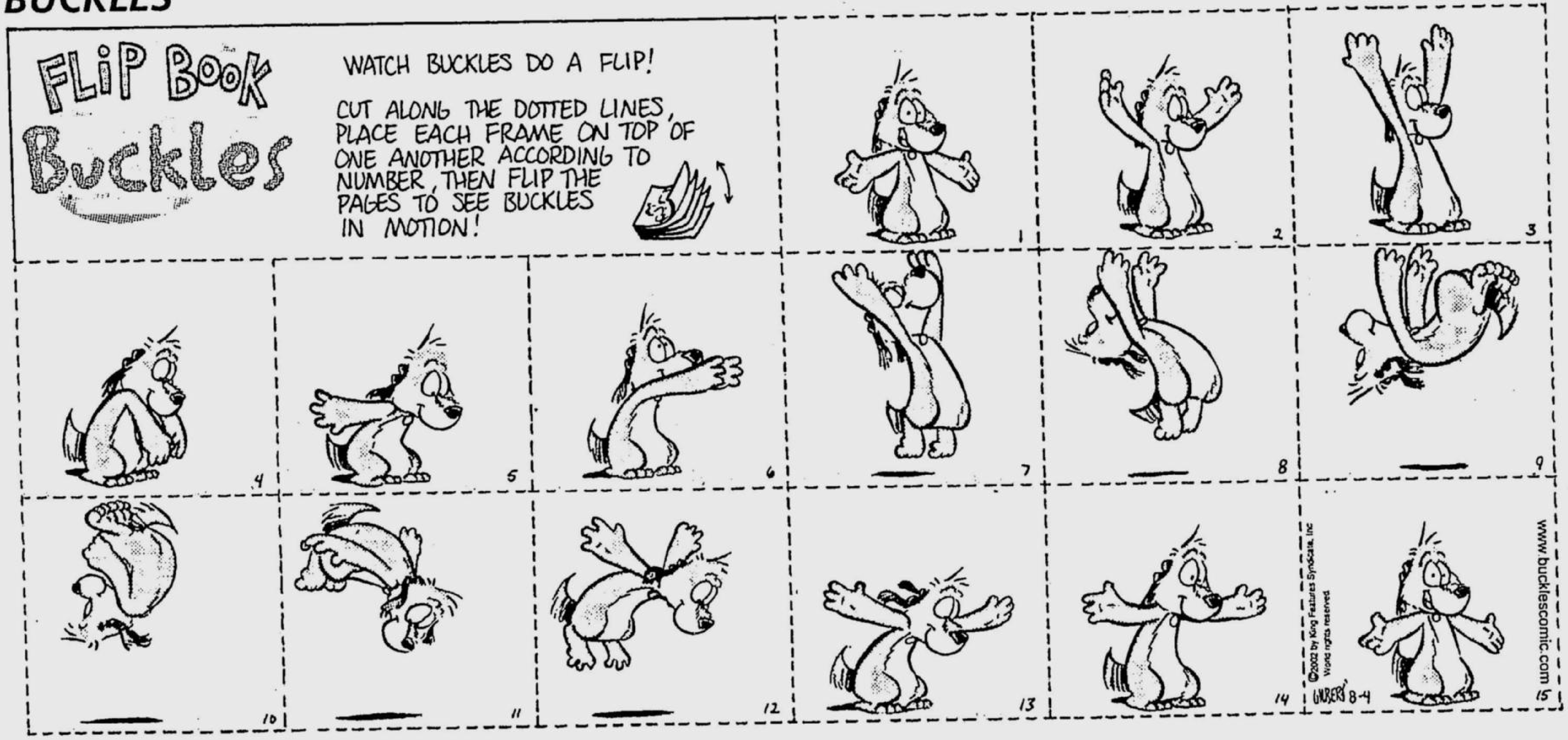
A. Monarch Butterfly
B. Swallowtail Butterfly
C. Doobeedoo Butterfly
D. orange dot Butterfly



Answer: a.

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT



WATCH BUCKLES DO A FLIP!

CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINES, PLACE EACH FRAME ON TOP OF ONE ANOTHER ACCORDING TO NUMBER, THEN FLIP THE PAGES TO SEE BUCKLES IN MOTION!

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PhilPost Bares 2002 UPU 31st Int'l Writing Tilt Winners

A BOY from Pangasinan has won the Universal Postal Union's 31st letter-writing contest.

Postmaster General Nicasio P. Rodriguez Jr. said Aldrin N. Manibog, 13, a first year high school student of Urdaneta National High School in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan, won first place. Anna Karoleen Lam, 15, a sophomore from Saint Jude Catholic School in Malabon City won 2nd prize and Rica A. Chua, 15, of Malabon National High School, Malabon City won third place.

The theme of the contest was "Letter to someone (that) you miss." The contest is aimed to develop the youth's facility in composition and foster international friendship.

The first prize winner will be awarded P15,000, the second prize winner with P10,000 and the third prize winner will receive P5,000 cash prize plus corresponding medals, plaques and albums of Philippine stamps.

The awarding ceremony is set on Oct. 9, 2002 in time for the celebration of the "World Post Day"—the UPU's 128th founding anniversary which will be held at the PhilPost central office in Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila.

Any news from YOUR SCHOOL?

Young campus journalists can fax their typewritten articles to JI at 897-4793 up to 94. Include your name. school and contact number and be sure to write ATTENTION: JUNIOR INQUIRER on top of your article. See YOUR news articles on the Junior Inquirer!

CAMPUS NEWS

TOY WORLD
Barbie
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Barbie as Rapunzel
Barbie as Rapunzel Collector Edition
Ken as Prince Stefan
Tommy as Li'l Prince
Lorena as Peacock Princess
Kelly as Petal Princess
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